MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 JANUARY 1983

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Negotiations -- The ninth round of Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. talks began at Khaldah on 24 January shortly after an RPG shell hit a nearby IDF barrier, wounding an Israeli soldier, IDF Radio reported. According to Jerusalem radio, the shell was fired from an area north of Beirut airport where U.S. Marines are stationed. The previous day Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib held their second weekend meeting but failed to resolve the dispute over Israel's demand that Israeli-manned early warning stations or IDF bases be established in Lebanon for a limited period of time, Jerusalem television reported. According to the report, Begin's visit to Washington will not take place in February. After the meeting Habib announced that he would return to Washington for consultations, Jerusalem radio noted. The U.S. envoy had earlier visited Beirut, Cairo, and Riyadh for talks with Lebanese, Egyptian, and Saudi leaders, according to Beirut radio, MENA, and SPA.

Israeli Cabinet sources meanwhile stated that if the United States does not change its position toward the arrangements with Lebanon, Israel will have to seek "other ways" to attain its objectives, Jerusalem radio reported. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told the 23 January Israeli Cabinet meeting that Lebanon should pay a price for having allowed "terrorists" to operate in its territory in the past and that Israel should not oppose a Syrian desire to have early warning stations in Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported.

Reporting on the Lebanese position, Beirut radio said a responsible source in Beirut disclosed that Lebanon is willing to accept early warning stations supervised either by the United Nations or the multinational force. The source denied that Lebanon has agreed to Habib's proposal that Americans supervise the stations. Earlier, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said the U.S. position in the negotiations is "sometimes slackening and sometimes firm." The United States should always be firm, he added, for the sake of U.S. credibility as well as for Lebanon's sake.

Military, Security Situation -- Druze and Christian militia exchanged artillery fire over the weekend in the 'Alayh area, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The radio added that on 22 January a shell fired by the Druze wounded a number of Israeli soldiers. In the Al-Biqa' valley tension prevailed along the confrontation line between the Israeli forces on the one side and the Syrian and Palestinian forces on the other following an exchange of artillery and rocket fire north of Al-Qir'awn lake, according to Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio. The radio noted that an Israeli spokesman warned the Palestinians against provoking the Israeli forces, saying that "the answer will be very stiff." Meanwhile, Israeli defense officials expressed "amazement" at U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's "overreaction" to reports of incidents between U.S. Marines and Israeli troops, the paper THE JERUSALEM POST pointed out.

PLO

Relations With Syria, Internal Disputes -- Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum chaired a 23 January meeting in Damascus attended by a number of Palestinian representatives including PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Earlier, the radio asserted that during Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Moscow, CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov told the Palestinian delegation to coordinate with Syria "if you want to remain alive." The radio also broadcast several interviews with a number of Palestinian personalities in which PLO-Syrian relations as well as the recent Tripoli declaration by Libya and five PLO factions were the main subjects of discussion. Khalid al-Fahum told the radio

that the PLO-Syrian dialogue is proceeding well and expressed optimism that the PLO and Syria will reach a complete agreement on points of "disparity." In a lengthier interview with the radio, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir said 'Arafat will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in an attempt to resolve PLO-Syrian differences, most probably after the February PNC session. While confirming the existence of PLO-Syrian disputes on a number of issues, including the conduct of the Lebanon war, he denied that the PLO has become part of a Jordanian-Iraqi-Saudi "axis."

In other Radio Monte Carlo interviews, representatives of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) praised the Tripoli declaration while 'Arafat's adviser 'Isam as-Sartawi criticized it. Meanwhile, the PFLP-General Command, the PPSF, the "Palestinian Liberation Front," and As-Sa'iqah issued statements condemning 'Arafat's recent meeting in Tunisia with Israeli peace activists, according to Damascus radio reports. A related "Palestine braodcast" commentary by Damascus radio said that it would be futile to hold a dialogue with the Peace Now movement, which is still "hostile" to Palestinian rights, and that to allow Peace Now representatives to attend the PNC meetings would be a "bad joke."

Nevertheless, a Palestinian source in Tunis disclosed earlier that the PLO leadership is "carefully considering" the attendance of an Israeli peace delegation with observer status at the Algiers PNC meeting, Radio Monte Carlo reported. One of the Israelis who recently met with 'Arafat told French television that the PLO is "absolutely ready" to recognize Israel if the latter recognizes the PLO, according to AFP. However, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir called for legislation by the Israeli Government to prevent Israeli Jews from meeting with PLO members, according to remarks broadcast by Jerusalem television.

'Arafat Activities -- PLO leader 'Arafat arrived in the PDRY on 23 January to patronize a 25 January Palestinian revolution anniversary celebration in Aden which will feature a Palestinian military parade representing all PLO factions, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio and Radio Monte Carlo. Earlier, 'Arafat had visited Morocco to participate in meetings of the Arab seven-member committee and the Jerusalem Committee, INA reported on 21 January. The PLO leader met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Moroccan King Hassan II, SPA and Rabat radio reported. He also sent an "important and urgent" message to the Egyptian foreign minister, according to MENA.

PLO Representation on Committee for London -- Former Halhul Mayor Muhammad Milhim stated in Rabat that the PLO continues to insist on being officially represented on the Arab seven-member committee in its forthcoming visit to London, INA reported. Milhim disclaimed knowledge about reports that he will be nominated to represent the PLO for the London visit.

Syrian Missiles

The Damascus paper TISHRIN indicated that Syria's SAM's are now deployed, asserting that the missiles constitute a defensive network against aircraft violating Syrian airspace, Radio Monte Carlo reported on 22 January. Meanwhile, the Israeli defense minister's office "vehemently" denied a NEWSWEEK report that about 2 weeks ago the Israeli Cabinet rejected Defense Minister Sharon's proposal to destroy the SAM-5's in Syria, according to Jerusalem radio.

Syrian-Libyan-Iranian Declaration

Syria, Libya, and Iran condemn the "insolent attacks by international Zionism and its allies" on Syria's right to self-defense and declare their solidarity in confronting any aggression against Syria, according to a communique issued in Damascus at the end of talks between the Syrian, Libyan, and Iranian foreign ministers. The communique, which was broadcast by Tehran radio and Damascus television on 23 January, said the

three countries oppose all plans aimed at leading the PLO to recognize "the Zionist enemy" or negotiate with it. Calling on PLO officials to unite against such plans, the communique condemned all attempts to pressure the PLO into making concessions that contradict its objectives and also denounced the "Baghdad-Cairo axis." The conferees demanded an end to all types of aid to the Iraqi regime, stressing the importance of a popular uprising in Iraq to overthrow President Saddam Husayn. Stressing the importance of strengthening Arab-Iranian relations and of securing Iran's participation in the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, the communique said the front must be reactivated and arrangements for the next front meeting must be accelerated. Syria, Libya, and Iran will continue their contacts by holding another meeting in Tehran, the communique noted.

The Syrian and Iranian foreign ministers described the talks as "very positive" and the latter said they will give new momentum to the Steadfastness Front, IRNA reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jerusalem Committee -- After meeting in Marrakech over the weekend the Jerusalem Committee issued a statement broadcast by Rabat radio praising the Fes peace plan, and expressing support for all measures taken by the Lebanese Government to guarantee Lebanon's unity and sovereignty.

Husayn Trip -- Jordanian King Husayn embarked on a tour of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman, Amman radio reported on 22 January. The same day Riyadh radio noted that the chief of Syria's General Staff conveyed a message to Saudi King Fahd from Syrian President al-Asad.

OPEC Meeting

At the end of the first day of the consultative meeting of OPEC oil ministers in Geneva, OPEC Secretary General Marc Nan Nguema announced "there is a 50-50 chance an agreement will be reached to avoid plunging the work into a state of anarchy," OPECNA reported. Nan Nguema said there was no talk of price cuts and denied reported threats by certain member countries against "overproducers" adding that the meeting is dealing with more issues than it anticipated, according to OPECNA. Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi stated that all members agreed on output, each member's share, and the price of oil, Tehran radio noted.

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

The 20 January incident at Tabah was an error and was unrelated to the Egyptian-Israeli dispute over the border demarcation there, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali told Israel's MA'ARIV. Noting that the Egyptians have erected a new fence at the demilitarized zone, Jerusalem radio said the incident was over.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali subsequently received a message from his Israeli counterpart Yitzhaq Shamir dealing with Egyptian-Israeli relations as well as Lebanon, MENA reported. According to Jerusalem radio, Shamir urged 'Ali to resume joint efforts to overcome all the problems pending between the two countries and thoroughly discuss them.

In a separate development, Jerusalem radio cited an IDF announcement that Israeli security forces have captured terrorists affiliated with Fatah who received orders from commanders residing in Egypt. The captured men were said to have been responsible for the recent attack on a bus in Tel Aviv. A Fatah official dismissed the Israeli statement, asserting that Fatah has only an administrative office in Egypt, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Egypt

Foreign Minister 'Ali urged the United States to play a more decisive role in the forthcoming stage of the Middle East peace process so that Arab countries will not doubt U.S. ability in continuing this process, Cairo radio reported. Meanwhile, President Husni Mubarak said his upcoming visit to the United States, Canada, Britain, and France is basically aimed at giving impetus to the peace process and achieving flexibility in using U.S. aid for development projects, Cairo radio noted, citing Mubarak's remarks during a meeting with NDP youths on 23 January. Analyzing the Iran-Iran war, Mubarak declared that Egypt will help Iraq by supplying it with weapons because Iraq is an Islamic and Arab state, the radio added.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian fighter planes and air defense units shot down two Iraqi aircraft in the western Dezful region on 21 January, an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed. Meanwhile, an Iraqi Air Force squadron shot down an Iranian aircraft during a 21 January dogfight, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio.

Iran

Esfahan Islamic Revolution guards arrested 90 Mojahedin-e Khalq members during a "purging operation," according to a 20 January Esfahan radio report. In another development the Islamic Guidance Ministry on 20 January refuted rumors on the closure of the Soviet news agency TASS' Tehran bureau, IRNA noted. The ministry said the Soviet correspondent's residence permit has not been renewed, but this does not mean the closure of the Tehran bureau, IRNA added.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi concluded his 17-21 January visit to Bulgaria with the signing of a friendship and cooperation treaty and a program for the development of economic, scientific, and technical development, JANA reported citing a Libyan-Bulgarian joint communique. Al-Qadhdhafi is currently visiting Romania where he held a closed meeting on 22 January with President Nicolae Ceausescu, JANA noted.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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JERUSALEM COMMITTEE MEETS IN MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

Delegation Chiefs Listed

LD220032 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] The joint meeting of the Jerusalem Committee and the Arab seven-member committee is taking place at the royal palace in Marrakech under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II. Delegations from 16 countries are attending, as well as a delegation from the Islamic Conference Organization led by Secretary General Habib Chatti and a delegation of the Arab League led by Secretary General Chedli Klibi. The meeting is also being attended by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Morocco this morning.

The heads of the participating delegations are: His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi Arabia's minister of foreign affairs; Marwan al-Qasim, Jordan's minister of foreign affiars; Hamid 'Alwan, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs; Beji Caid es-Sebsi, Tunisian minster of foreign affairs; Ibrahim Halawah, Lebanon's minister of economy, trade,and tourism; Moustapha Niasse, Senegal's minster of state for foreign affairs; Abdoulaye Toure, Guinea's minister of foreign affairs; Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, Indonesia's minister of foreign affairs; Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Pakistan's minister of law and parliamentary affairs; Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, the representative of Palestine; A.R.S. Boha, the minister of foreign affairs of Bangladesh, Daouda Diallo, Niger's minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Abdelqadir Benkacem, deputy secretary general of the Algerian Foreign Minstry, Ahmad 'Isa, Syria's ambassador to Morocco, and [name indistinct] Sabhani, the head of the Iranian delegation.

King Hassan 21 Jan Speech

LD221108 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Speech by King Hassan II at 21 January opening session of Jerusalem Committee in Marrakech royal palace -- recorded]

[Text] Praise be to God, prayers and peace be upon our Lord, the Messenger of God, his family and companions. My brother PLO Chairman Brother Abu 'Ammar, Your Royal Highness, Your Excellencies the secretaries General, Your Excellencies ministers and ambassadors:

We welcome you once again to Moroccan soil to consider the affairs of the Islamic issue: the problem of holy Jerusalem. I would like to say that the spirit which has prevailed continuously on our work and which occupies our interest and work will remain prevalent, rationally and emotionally, over the results of this conference as resolutions that will enlighten and help our brother kings and presidents of the Islamic (?community).

As you know, the Arab summit in Fes entrusted a committee of seven countries to explain the Fes proposals and resolution and to listen to each of the permanent members of the Security Council.

It is understandably impossible for any Arab to tackle the first problem of the Arabs, Palestine, without also tackling, either at the beginning or at the end, the problem of holy Jerusalem. As far as I, the feeble slave of God, am concerned, [word indistinct] to this subject when I was in Washington.

I will brief you on what I did, particularly what I heard in a closed working meeting, so that we can understand and comprehend what we have seen and heard and plan what we should do. However, with all this, it is impossible for the Arabs to reach a decisive result concerning the problem of Jerusalem unless they are supported by their Muslim brothers in all countries regardless of race or color. I am convinced that your Jerusalem Committee and the followup committee -- the committee of seven -- will find, God willing, the opportunity to coordinate their work and to add [words indistinct] to each other so that our weight will become greater and our support stronger.

Before I give the floor to my Brother Abu 'Ammar, and after him to His Excellency Secretary General Habib Chatti, I would like to propose to you a program of action: to be satisfied today with these speeches and to set up a formulation committee so that we can reach decisions and resolutions whose source and origin will be the working papers submitted by each delegation, or the delegation which has a working paper [words indistinct]. Then we will hold a closed session to agree on the texts [words indistinct] the ways and the paths. Then the closing session will take place and we will ask His Excellency Secretary General Chedli Klibi to join us for the closing session.

I would like to especially welcome the Tunisian and Algerian delegations, both of which are active members of the Fes summit committee of seven. I took the liberty of inviting them after consultation with the brothers, and they are welcome within this group.

God is the helper and the guide to success. Peace and God's blessing be upon you.

Yasir 'Arafat 21 Jan Address

LD221146 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, at 21 January opening session of Jerusalem Committee in Marrakech -- recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

To those against whom war is made permission is given to fight because they are wronged; and truly God is most powerful in aiding those who have been expelled from their homes in defiance of right for no cause except that they say: our Lord is God. [quotation from Koran]

It gives me pleasure, Your Majesty, for myself and my brothers in the Palestinian delegation to have the honor of participating with Your Majesty and with our brother Muslims and Arabs in this committee. The Jerusalem Committee is, in the heart and in the conscience, rather in every aspect of our political, religious, and social life, the cornerstone in the Middle East equation and the equation of our Arab and Islamic nation. The loss of Jerusalem -- and I will not say its occupation -- is but a temporary loss [thihab]. To enter your temple as they had entered it before, and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [quotation from Koran] This is God's promise and it is the promise of right.

However, in addition to that, we Muslims and Arabs are called upon to face the challenges which are thrown in our faces by this Zionist enemy who is sitting on the First Qiblah and the third holiest mosque. We are required more than at any time before, at a time when this Zionist arrogance has been increasing -- an arrogance which receives unlimited support from the United States -- we are required to face events so that we can say to our future generations and to our children that this generation is a generation of fighters. It does not agree that the First Qiblah and third holiest mosque should remain under this Zionist occupation which is weighing heavy on it.

From here, while we are meeting today in the Jerusalem Committee, particularly since this meeting is the first meeting of this committee, Your Majesty, after the Fes conference which was held here on the territory of fraternal Morocco, we should stand as an Arab nation, with unanimous resolutions, and we should have a clear vision and with unified and collective resolution should face the entire world united to (?secure) a just and lasting (?solution) to the Palestinian question. Palestine will then return to its owners, because we all remember that our resolutions basically concentrated on the fact that Jerusalem is the capital of the independent Palestinian state. We are required as Muslims and as Arabs to exert great efforts to achieve this.

What happened in that devastating war in Lebanon, in which the Israeli forces pushed on to sow havoc on the soil of Lebanon against the Lebanese and Palestinian people, is not only an episode or a link in the long chain which seeks to place this area within the Israeli sphere of influence so that they can realize the dream of a land of Israel stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates. Their incursion into Lebanon was not solely to strike at the Palestinian people. What is taking place now in the mountains of Lebanon is sectarian sedition sparked by the Zionist enemy on the soil of dear Lebanon. It reveals the ugly face of this criminal, Zionist plot which seeks to control the entire area.

From here, in the name of the Palestinian mujahidin and in the name of the mujahidin of our Arab and Islamic nation, I ring the bell and blow the horn so that our area will not suffer the same fate as Andalucia and become dust in the pages of history. Thus we are directly responsible to God, to future generations, and to history. But, Your Majesty, while we meet today as we met some months ago in Fes when we produced good results, I am certain that we here will achieve results which consolidate and strengthen what we achieved at our Arab meeting.

(?We hope that with) Arab and Islamic solidarity we can face the situation, together and with God's help. And, God willing, this will be a new platform from which we can take firm and sure steps forward, steps of the jihad and the mujahadinin to Jerusalem and to Palestine. I repeat the holy Koranic verse: To enter your temple as they had done before, and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. Thank you.

Habib Chatti 21 Jan Speech

LD221208 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Speech by Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, at 21 January opening session of Jerusalem Committee in Marrakech -- recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. God's peace and prayers for our Prophet Muhammad, last of the prophets and messengers.

Your Majesty King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee; brother great struggler Yasir 'Arafat, Your Excellencies and Highnesses, brothers:

We are meeting again on this blessed Moroccan soil to discuss, within the framework of the Jerusalem Committee, which is proud to have King Hassan II as its chairman, all that should be done for the cause of Jerusalem and Palestine -- our principal cause -- in the present circumstances and to acquaint ourselves with the results of the 12th Arab summit conference and to study conditions in the Arab East so that the committee can draw up its future plan of action and consequently provide strong Islamic support for the efforts of the Arab countries.

I wish to thank Your Majesty King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, for your kind invitation to the committee to hold this extraordinary session in response to the wishes of Muslims in their various countries, and in response to the aspirations of our Islamic glorious nation which looks eagerly to the day when we will liberate our holy places and retrieve our land from the usurper and intruder.

By inviting members of the Arab seven-member committee and the struggler commander Brother Yasir 'Arafat to attend the Jerusalem Committee meeting, you have made an initiative which deserves all gratitude and thanks to Your Majesty because it epitomizes Arab-Islamic cooperation in the pursuit of common objectives.

Here I wish to salute the brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, who has added to his heroic record a new chapter by his command of the steadfastness of the Palestinian strugglers in the face of Israeli invasion, thus proving to the whole world that the Palestinian people are a people who want to live and who deserve to have an honorable life and that there is no force capable of halting their march toward victory.

I must not forget also to address sincere greetings to Tunisia and Algeria for their participation in this meeting. We can never forget the great stands these two Arab Muslim countries have taken on the cause of Palestine and Jerusalem.

I wish also to greet Brother Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, for attending this meeting. I wish also to thank his majesty the king and Moroccan officials and people for the sincere fraternal feelings, the generous hospitality, and warm welcome they have shown. All of these are familiar characteristics of this noble Islamic country.

Brothers, this is the second time that Marrakech, this noble Moroccan city renowned throughout history for its struggle, has played host to a meeting of the Jerusalem Committee. We seek inspiration from the spirit of struggle and sacrifice for the cause of Islam in its glorous past, a struggle waged and a sacrifice offered with seriousness and sincerity, in our efforts to retrieve our holy places and to liberate the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Since our last meeting in Fes, brothers, our nation has seen hard times abounding with events, and Lebanon has witnessed all the raids, massacres, and invasions that are known to all. But the convocation of the historic Fes conference on 6 September 1982 opened a new chapter in the file on the Palestine cause, the cause of peace in the Middle East. At that conference the Arab leaders rose above their differences and disputes and placed the interests of their nation above all other considerations. They decided to tackle the question of finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine problem on the basis of reality and with the logic of a responsibility that is conscious of the development of events on the Arab and international field.

Thus the Fes conference produced a unified Arab peace plan, based on the foundations laid down by the Arab and Islamic summit conferences. It was also based on the principles of international law, the UN Charter, and resolutions adopted by the United Nations, various Arab, Islamic, and international conferences in regard to the causes of Jerusalem and Palestine.

In view of this new course opened by the Fes Arab summit conference on the causes of Palestine and the Middle East, it has become necessary for the Islamic nation to participate most effectively -- today more than at any time in the past -- in securing implementation of a unified Arab peace plan and in overcoming all the obstacles that might arise in the way. The cause of Jerusalem, and Palestine in particular, and the occupied Arab territories including Lebanon -- from which the Israili forces have not yet withdrawn -- in general is a cause which commands the interest of all Muslims in all countries as their principal cause, just as it is for the Arabs.

The 13th conference of Muslim foreign ministers which was held at Niamey prior to the convocation of the Arab summit conference in Fes expressed a desire for the Fes conference to draft a new plan which would extricate the Palestine cause from the dead-end in which it had fallen for 35 years. We thank God that the hopes pinned on the Fes Arab summit conference by the Niamey Islamic conference have been fulfilled by the historic decision taken at this latter conference -- a decision which won Arab unanimity.

The Islamic foreign ministers also held a coordinating meeting in New York on 12 October at which they saluted the Fes conference decision and declared their adoption of it. They expressed their conviction of the need for unification of Islamic and Arab efforts to confront the Zionist challenge and to bolster the Palestinian people in their constant battle to retrieve their established rights and to create their independent state on their soil under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestine people.

Today we are meeting within the framework of the Jerusalem Committee. It is an organization specializing in handling the cause of Jerusalem and the holy places. It stems from the will of the entire Islamic nation. We are meeting to express our support for the Fes summit decision and to extend our hand in cooperation to the Arab countries to help them secure the implementation of that decision to achieve the common objectives of the Arab and Islamic nations.

The steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the face of Israeli aggression in the occupied Palestinian territory and the events in Lebanon and Beirut, the massacres at Sabra and Shatila camps, and the historic decision of the Fes conference have won for our cause international sympathy it never enjoyed before. In view of this, we must not lost the opportunity but exploit it to push our cause forward.

Undoubtedly, the solidarity of world countries and peoples with the peace process initiatived by the Fes Arab summit conference will help us thwart the Israeli schemes aimed at perpetuating the occupation of Arab and Palestinian territories and at continuing tension in the region and threatening international peace and security.

Your Majesty, permit me to speak here of the efforts exerted by the Jerusalem Committee under your chairmanship since the convocation of the 10th conference of Islamic foreign ministers in Fes on the international, Islamic, and Arab levels in support of the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in their occupied homeland and in halting the Judaization of religious sites and the Islamic heritage in Jerusalem, and in helping the Palestinian people secure their established national rights.

This joint meeting of the Jerusalem Committee and the Arab seven-member committee provides a lesson which our peoples and enemies alike will learn: that the Arab and Islamic nations march along one road toward their unified, common objectives and with one will and one faith. I pray to God that He may grant Your Majesty greater success in your work for the good of Morocco and that of the Arab and Islamic nations.

God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Work Resumed 22 Jan

LD221338 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] The Jerusalem Committee resumed its meeting this morning. A closed session was held at the royal palace at Marrakech.

The drafting committee of the Jerusalem Committee is to study some of the working papers put forward by participating delegations. We have learned that Morocco and Jordan have offered two working papers which are to be added to other ideas expressed by the Palestinian delegation.

INA: 'Recommendations Committee' Ends Work

JN222006 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Marrakech, 22 Jan (INA) -- The recommendations committee ended its work here tonight. The INA correspondent here has learned that the recommendations call on the Islamic countries to embrace the Arab peace plan, support the Arab seven-member committee's efforts to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue, and support Lebanon for the sake of its unity and independence.

'Arafat Confers With Sa'ud

JN231807 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal in Marrakech yesterday evening. The two discussed current Arab developments and the Arab seven-member committee's visit to Britain.

'Final Statement' Issued

LD222355 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Jan 83

["Final statement" issued at concluding session on 22 January of Jerusalem Committee in Marrakech, read by M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs -- recorded]

[Text] Your Majesty, Chairman of the PLO, Your Excellencies: This is the text of the statement issued by the meeting of the Jerusalem Committee at its seventh session:

The Jerusalem Committee held its seventh session under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hasan II, the king of Morocco and committee chairman, in Marrakech on 21 and 22 January 1983. The mujahid leader Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and the commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, took part in the meeting. Also taking part were Mr Chedli Klibi, the secretary general of the Arab League, and the members of the Arab seven-member committee that resulted from the Arab summit in Fes, which embodied Islamic-Arab cooperation aimed at reaching common objectives.

After listening to the speech by His Majesty King Hasan II, chairman of this drafting committee, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, and chairman of the Arab seven-member committee; the speech by the struggler Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman; and to the report by the secretary general of Islamic Conference Organization, Habib Chatti, the committee held its meeting in an atmosphere permeated by the spirit of Islamic brotherhood.

The joint meeting of the Jerusalem Committee and the Arab seven-member committee provided an opportunity to affirm the Islamic countries' strong support for the Arab countries' efforts to achieve the objectives of both the Islamic and Arab nations regarding the holy Jerusalem issue and Palestine.

The Jerusalem Committee agreed that the Arab peace plan adopted by the Arab summit in Fes constitutes a new starting point for the Arab-Islamic move to reach a comprehensive and durable settlement to the Middle East issue on the basis of right and justice. The Jerusalem Committee decided to adopt the Arab peace plan approved by the Arab summit at Fes because of the committee's belief in the Islamic and Arab nations' ability to attain its objectives and to confront the Israeli challenge with its energies and potentials, and because of the principles and bases that were defined by the Islamic summit conferences regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The committee made a number of decisions with the aim of supporting the move carried out by the Arab seven-member committee. It also made other decisions supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and confronting the policy of judaization and colonization being carried out by Israel in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

The committee reviewed the situation in the occupied Palestinian and Arab areas. It reaffirmed its appreciation and esteem for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories. It decided to provide further support for this steadfastness. It also studied the question of Israel's continuing policy of settlement in the Palestinian and Arab territories, and it condemned and denounced this policy. It affirmed that these practices constitute an obstacle to peace and expose Israel's reality, which rejects peace and seeks expansion. It requests that the international community in general and the permanent members of the UN Security Council in particular intervene to stop the policy of settlements and force Israel to respect international will.

After listening to the review by all member states on the situation in Lebanon, it declared its support and backing for all steps that the Lebanese Government is taking to guarantee the unity of Lebanon and the sovereignty of Lebanon over all its territory.

The committee discussed the effect of the Iraq-Iran war on joint Islamic action for Jerusalem and Palestine and expressed great concern over the continuation of the war. It appealed to the two sides to end this war. The committee declared its support for the Islamic peace committee's and all other efforts to end this war. It supports every measure that the two sides agree on in order to find a solution that leads to an immediate cease-fire and to solving the conflict on the basis of justice, Islamic fraternity, and the safeguarding of rights and sovereignty of each side. This would allow their forces to be directed toward confronting the Zionist aggression aimed at the entire Islamic nation.

The Jerusalem Committee approved a number of recommendations, including the following:

1. Blesses the steps of joint action between the Arab seven-member committee and the Jerusalem Committee in whatever achieves joint Arab and Islamic aims.

2. Calls for drawing up an urgent plan to confront the dangers embodied in the continuation of Israeli settlement in the holy city of Jerusalem, its surroundings, and throughout the occupied Palestinian territories.

3. Appeals to the Islamic states quickly to implement the recommendations of the Jerusalem Committee for forming popular societies in Islamic states to collect donations to confront the Israeli plans aimed at judaizing Jerusalem and continuing the settlements policy.

4. Prepares international action to explain the Arab peace plan and to win international support for it.

5. Prepares for adoption of the Arab peace plan by the forthcoming conference of the Nonaligned Movement scheduled for India in March 1983.

6. Prepares contacts with the Vatican, the International Federation of Churches, and other Christian bodies and institutions with aim of gaining their support and backing for the Arab peace plan.

7. Calls on countries of the Third World, and particularly the group of nonaligned countries, to take all necessary measures to confront the Israeli infiltration attempt, to stop Israel's plan aimed at returning to these countries in order to end its diplomatic isolation, and to work to consider that the Palestinian issue a primary issue for the Third World as a whole, not only the Arab and Islamic world.

8. Greets the ministerial committee for information and culture under the chairmanship of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf for its adoption of the information plan approved by the Jerusalem Committee. It warmly welcomes the cooperation and coordination between the chairmanship of the Jerusalem Committee and the chairmanship of the ministerial committee for information and culture in order to encourage Islamic information work, to serve the goal of liberation of holy Jerusalem, and to restore national Palestinian rights.

9. Works on continuing the exposure of the massacres commited by Israel in the Sabra and Shatila camps, considering that they were a stain of shame on the forehead of all humanity.

The Jerusalem Committee approved the report of the board of directors of the Jerusalem Committee fund at its fifth session held in Marrakech on 21 January 1983.

At the conclusion of the meetings of the seventh session of the Jerusalem Committee, the participating delegations expressed their thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hassan II, chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, for his care and guidance at the meetings of this session and for his speech of guidance, which the committee adopted, thus enabling it to arrive at positive resolutions to confront the present phase and support the struggle of the Palestinian people to retrieve their national rights. Moreover, it conveyed great thanks to the Kingdom of Morocco -- its king, government, and people -- for the warm hospitality and reception and for the good preparations made for the meeting.

King Hassan 22 Jan Speech

LD230104 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2050 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Speech by King Hassan II at final session of Jerusalem Committee in Marrakech -- live]

[Text] Thanks be to God. Prayers and peace be on our Lord, the Messenger of God, and on His family and companions.

My brother and friend Chairman Abu 'Ammar, Your Excellency Habib Chatti, Mr Chedli Klibi, Your Royal Highness, and Your Excellencies the ministers and ambassadors:

It is traditional for the chairman of a conference to conclude the final session with a few words or a speech. After the recommendations and the speeches by Chedli Klibi and Brother Chairman Abu 'Ammar, my short speech will be superfluous and circumstantial but I will try and make it as light and as gentle as possible.

When we visited the United States together with our team, we did not speak with His Excellency President Reagan on only the question of the occupied territory; we talked to him about the question of Jerusalem. Our talk on the question of Jerusalem represented an Islamic will and not only an Arab will. I can say without prejudging the results -- I am an honest man -- I can state that I found the President of the United States, his secretary of state, and the others who shoulder responsibility -- I say this very truthfully and honestly -- I found him to be understanding. He is committed against any imposed gains becoming a fait accompli and a law by implication, whether on the question of Jerusalem or on the question of the other occupied territories.

I believe this is a good portent. However, this is not enough because no one can scratch your skin as well as your own nails. [Arab proverb] As Chedli Klibi said, the Arabs recognized the PLO in 1974 -- this was in Rabat -- as the sole and legitimate ones responsible for the rights of Palestine. If this places on all of us a duty of solidarity, it places on the PLO the duty of responsibility and farsightedness. The spirit of responsibility and farsightedness will undoubtedly emerge shortly in your conference that will be held in Algeria in the middle of the next month.

I am certain that you will be planning for war as much as you will be planning for peace. I am certain that the PLO -- which has always been committed to all the resolutions of the Arab conferences and which played an important role in crystallizing the recent Fes resolutions -- whatever the political one-upmanship that exists in all our movements and parties, will sooner or later come out united in rank, bearing its responsibility and aware of its role in the family of the Islamic and Arab nations.

(?In the name) of our Arab and Islamic family, I wish your conference success. I pray to Almighty God that God's guidance and the astuteness of the Arabs will aid (?your conference).

As for you, Brother Abu 'Ammar, I would not like to hear you say thank you or to hear our brothers here say thank you for the welcome. The proverb says: The people follow the faith of their kings, but in this country the king follows the faith of his people. [applause] If I do not humbly cherish the Islamic spirit of this people and its Arab astuteness, you would not have found them in the Golan, Sinai, or wherever they are (?needed) today or tomorrow.

The big or not-so-big powers know the attitude of Morocco very well. Morocco does not reject any dialogue. Morocco does not reject any action for peace. Morocco does not reject any meeting. Let first the foe and then the whole world be served notice that Morocco holds in its hand the dove of peace and holds in its hand the sword for defending the glories.

I pray to Almighty God that when the Jerusalem Committee and the seven-man committee meet to analyze the outcome of what the seven-man committee had done that all of us will have taken some positive steps and -- I would not say reached the target -- but would have chosen the proper path, because whoever follows the path reaches the target in the end.

I pray to Almighty God that He strengthens this new chain and its links -- the Jerusalem Committee and the seven-man committee, which had been spontaneously created here in Marrakech -- that He lends support to its links and increases its strength so that it may not disappoint the hopes of the two great families: the Islamic and Arab nations. I do not doubt that we will succeed because Almighty God has taken it upon Himself -- I say voluntarily, He was not compelled to do so. He will keep his promise. Who could promise better than He when He says: And we are obliged to aid those who believed. God's words are the true words. Peace and the blessing of God be upon you. [applause]

'Arafat 22 January Address

LD230950 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2050 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat at final session of Jerusalem Committee on 22 January in Marrakech -- live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

My Brother Your Majesty, Brother Habib Chatti, Brother Chedli Klibi, dear brothers: At the conclusion of this session here on this fraternal and pure soil and among those brothers -- our brothers and kinfolk in Morocco -- and under the chairmanship of Your Majesty, and through the resolutions, discussions, and examinations which have taken place, all these were under the patronage of this sincere fraternity, all under the patronage of precise understanding of what we are confronting, of cultural challenges from the Zionist tyrant which has unlimited backing from the United States. The enemy sits on and occupies Islamic land. Previously it was Arab land -- the first of the two Qiblahs and the third holy place. The tyrant then became more arrogant and haughty in his continuous aggression against our Arab nation.

What happened in Lebanon and what is happening now in Lebanon are clear evidence of this expansionist criminal plot of the Zionist enemy. The enemy is confronting us with all his challenges: to be or not to be.

With this concept we convened this committee under you chairmanship, Your Majesty. It is no coincidence that the Jerusalem Committee convened on this pure land and among this good struggling people, just as our Arab conference was held several months ago also on this pure land. But this means, Your Majesty, great responsibilities in addition to your national and Moroccan responsibilities. They go beyond Arab and Islamic responsibilities. I am totally confident that you are worthy of shouldering this responsibility and this trust. May God lead you to success, and all of us too.

Allow me, Your Majesty, to thank you for hosting this meeting and to thank the fraternal Moroccan people. I address all my brothers here in the name of the Palestinian mujahidin and in the name of the PLO. We say we shall continue as we have always done, and because you made a covenant with us, we shall continue the true struggle until we liberate, together and side by side, our holy land -- the first of the two Qiblahs and the third holy place. With God's help, this is not too far away. They see it as too distant, but we see it to be near. We are right.

But here I say that rights and homelands are not restored by words alone. Make ready your strength against your enemies to the utmost of your power, including your steeds of war, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies and others whom you may not know, but whom God knows. [quotation from Koran]

Therefore, as I have said, the Palestinian mujahidin pledge to all their brothers, the Muslim mujahidin and the Arab mujahidin, to continue on this road until we raise our banner together, God willing, over the minarets of Jerusalem and over the churches of Jerusalem. God is my witness. Thank you, Your Majesty. [applause]

Klibi 22 Jan Concluding Remarks

LD231054 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2050 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Speech by Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, at final session of Jerusalem Committee in Marrakech -- live]

[Excerpts] Your Majesty, Your Excellency Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, my brother and colleague His Excellency the secretary general, Your Highness and Excellencies:

The Arab League General Secretariat, which shared the Jerusalem Committee's objectives and which is grateful to this committee, holds nothing dearer than to unify the efforts of both sides and to attain mutually favorable results in work for them, coordination of stances, and the power to implement them. Arab-Islamic solidarity dictates cooperation and steadfastness before the enemy to foil his ambitions. It also dictates persistent work for a comprehensive plan that ensures the return of rights to where they belong. There is no doubt that the criminal aggression against holy Jerusalem, Al-'Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, and the burning of churches all bear clear witness to the intentions of Zionism toward the city and its holy places.

The attempt to set fire to Al-'Aqsa Mosque was only the first link in the chain of attacks carried out by Zionism against Islamic and Christian holy places. Last year witnessed a number of these attacks, such as the storming of Al-'Aqsa Mosque and firing on people praying in the Dome of the Rock Mosque and the attacks on Christian churches.

The Israeli leaders have taken a number of measures to achieve their aims including: the administrative and political annexation of Jerusalem and declaration of Jerusalem as their capital, abrogating Arab administrative laws and replacing them with Israeli legislation, closing down legal courts, freezing the Sharia' court sentences, confiscating property in the villages near Jerusalem, seizing headquarters and areas inside the city's old wall, subjugating Arab education to Israeli programs and prohibiting Arab books, terrorizing the intelligentsia and rendering them homeless, and announcing greater Jerusalem, with the aim of annexing 9 cities and 60 Arab villages near Jerusalem to the Israeli occupation's jurisdiction power.

Your Majesty, this Zionist design which aims at the judaization of Jerusalem moves along three main paths. First, they want to drop the Arab character of Jerusalem by destroying [word indistinct] of the traditional architecture of the old city. Second, the Zionist design is attempting to justify the annexation of Jerusalem to Israel. Israel for many years, and particularly since 1967, has continued to implement the architectural annexation scheme by surrounding the old city with a creeping net of new buildings and wide roads in an endeavor to contain the city within the Zionist entity and to disconnect it and sever its links with the West Bank. As for the third point on which the Zionist plan works, it is to present the issue of Jerusalem as a mere issue of facilitating visits to holy places. Thus it becomes clear that Israel's final aim, after depriving the city of its Arab character and thus depriving the Arab side of the pretext for demanding it, is to put the issue in a religious context and nothing more.

Even regarding the city's Islamic affiliation, the attempts and maneuvers, by destroying and erecting new buildings and changing the features of its original character, continually try to limit the issue to the holy mosque and nothing else and to introduce the element of internal dispute, the question of the Wailing Wall, and the location of Temple of Solomon, the search for which was the pretext for carrying out excavations.

However, despite its pressures and conspiracies, Israel was unsuccessful in preventing the international community, represented by the UNESCO international committee for heritage, from announcing that the City of Jerusalem and its walls constitute a historical group that should be considered as a whole and which derive their balance and particular character from the harmony of their elements. The Arab organization for culture, education, and science made extensive efforts in this respect to ensure that we won the battle against Israel and those who supported it at the meetings of the UNESCO committee.

Your Majesty, the City of Jerusalem includes holy places for Muslims and holy places for Christians. It is inconceivable to leave the protection of the Islamic and Christian holy places to that small minority of Zionists who do not believe in Islam or Christianity.

Our joint action, which immediately seeks to protect the heritage and to preserve the landmarks until the holy city is liberated, requires a comprehensive plan, the one which was included in the call for a jihad to liberate Jerusalem. The call by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to proclaim a jihad in its wide and comprehensive meaning is still in force and will continue to be as long as Jerusalem is occupied. Therefore, a new drive of Arab-Islamic action is vital in this connection to check the attitudes of doubt and hesitation which we sense even among our certain friends who support the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Your Majesty, the latest in the chain of Israeli crimes against humanity is that barbaric invasion of Lebanon with a view to seizing its resources and controlling its economy and destiny after torturing the Palestinian people, destroying their camps, and spreading terror among their ranks. The Zionist entity has exploited regional and international conditions to achieve his expansionist designs. Israeli information media prepared Western public opinion to accept a military operation limited to southern Lebanon against the Palestinian fighters. Israel relied on the backing of a superpower to carry out this operation, which immediately expanded, disregarding the increasing condemnation from all parts of the world. It also took advantage of the division among certain parts of the Islamic world, particularly the bloody painful war between the two Islamic fraternal countries of Iraq and Iran, which pains us all. It also exploited the division which prevailed for a while among Arab relations.

The Fes summit closed one of the outlets which the Zionist enemy had been accustomed to using to achieve its aims. The summit built the unity of the Arab ranks and united their word which embodies unity on the basis of joint responsibility. Thus the Fes summit has placed before the international community the clear responsibility and a genuine test to affirm its responsibility to preserve world peace and to uphold the law and international norms in the face of the Israeli tyrant who behaves like a big power in the entire region. He is preparing now to open a new gap. In solidarity with fraternal Lebanon, all our states stand by Lebanese legitimacy in its difficult confrontation, to support it and to prevent the imposition of unacceptable conditions on it which aim only at separating Lebanon from the Arab body.

Your Majesty, for the first time an Arab peace plan has emerged with an Arab nation's unanimous approval and with the approval of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The points of this plan were formulated as an interlocking whole aimed at establishing a comprehensive settlement that will end the existing state of conflict by removing its causes. What ensures the effectiveness of the Fes summit plan is the fact that it deals with all aspects of the issue, guarantees Palestinian rights, and responds to the need for conformity with all the UN resolutions in connection with the required settlement. The principles from which this plan stems found positive reactions throughout the world and were not opposed by anyone except Israel. Therefore, it is the duty of the world to shoulder its responsibilities after the Arabs shouldered their responsibilities with courage and wisdom.

In this connection we welcome all Arab efforts made within the framework of coordination and joint action between all our states for ensuring the right to self-determination for the struggling Palestinian people. With united ranks and aims, and with a united, firm Arab will, it is possible to follow up the implementation of this plan within the framework of international legitimacy in the service of peace.

This is an historic opportunity which everyone must take. In addition to this sincere and genuine course, the 12th Arab summit in which you, Your Majesty, carried out a historic role in making it a success, was not unaware of a fact which we learned from past experiences. The Arab initiative, embodied in the Fes summit resolutions, is not at all the expression of having prepared as much force as we could for a possible confrontation. We are called upon, more than ever before, to consolidate our will and strengthen ourselves and to continue to search for the best ways to coordinate our Arab and Islamic stances within a united strategy.

Your Majesty, efforts are being made to achieve a comprehensive settlement. The Arab and Islamic states are called upon to do their utmost to keep the Palestinian land an Arab-Islamic land, with its centerpiece holy Jerusalem.

The seven-member committee, under your chairmanship and under the chairmanship of your brother His Majesty King Husayn, has made extensive efforts to race against time and overcome various difficulties and rally the effective friendships for supporting the Arab peace plan. It remains for the influential states to assume in their turn the role of their responsibilities. Here lies a difficult test of certain friendship and also a more difficult test too for Arab resources to turn friends into genuine supporters. What Chairman 'Arafat carried out in opening the channels of dialogue at various international forums confirms the responsible behavior which the organization is following in its endeavors to secure more supporters and friends throughout the international arena.

IRANIAN OIL MINISTER ON PROPOSALS FOR MEETING

GF230644 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] The special OPEC meeting will begin this afternoon in Geneva to discuss and decide on the amount of oil to be produced. The UAE oil minister said that OPEC is passing through the most difficult stage in its history. He hoped that the OPEC oil ministers would not leave Geneva before reaching an agreement on the level of oil production.

According to informed sources, at today's OPEC meeting, Libya, Algeria, and the Islamic Republic of Iran will play a major role and, most probably, the proposals of the Islamic Republic of Iran on an oil production level will be the main axis in today's discussions.

Mr Gharazi, the oil minister of our country, who has gone to Geneva to attend the OPEC meeting, spoke with the Central News Agency correspondent in Geneva. Please pay attention to a report on this talk:

Oil Minister Gharazi said: We did not reach an acceptable agreement at the last OPEC meeting in Vienna. We think there are two main points for discussion. The first is the price of oil, which is $34 per barrel and is not acceptable. In previous OPEC meetings, Saudi Arabia promised to organize its production in a way so that it can [word indistinct] with $34.

The second point is that unless the people who have saturated the market do not get together to reduce this condition, the situation will continue to worsen. If Saudi Arabia agrees to produce four to four and a half million barrels per day for a year, not only Iran but also other OPEC members will agree to accept the recent situation in order to defend the price, their nationa, and their sorces.

On the relationship between oil and the economy in Iran, Mr Gharavi said: Many times before the revolution, during the revolution, or after the revolution we have mentioned that we are a sovereign country and we have to put the bases of our sovereignty on the fact that we won't be relying on only one source of production. We try to organize our budget so that it will not be completely dependent on the oil market and sales. But oil is an instrument in our hands and we use it as an instrument and try to keep it safe.

Gharazi continued: Iran's interest is the same as OPEC's interest if special internal forces or external pressures are not acting on OPEC. It is our responsibility to defend OPEC.

Last night the Venezuelan oil minister met with his Iranian counterpart and discussed the interests of the two countries. At the end of this meeting an informed source said: Venezuela will support Iran's proposals at today's OPEC meeting.

OPEC MINISTERS HOLD CONSULTATIVE SESSION IN VIENNA

Meeting Opens

LD231320 Vienna OPECNA in English 1210 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Geneva, 23 Jan 83 (OPECNA) -- A consultative meeting of oil ministers of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) opened here this morning.

The discussions will aim at reaching an agreement on individual quota allocations with the ultimate objective of defending the 34 US dollar per barrel price for Arabian light -- the OPEC marker crude.

At their 66th conference in Vienna last month, the ministers decided to increase OPEC's overall daily crude output by one million barrels to 18.5 million, but did not reach agreement on how to share the new production ceiling.

Since then, there have been private consultations among the oil ministers, particularly during the meeting of ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Bahrain earlier this month. These private talks culminated in today's meeting.

On arrival here Saturday, Marc Nan Nguema, OPEC secretary general, said it was "irresponsible" to talk about oil price cuts.

"We have the oil, financial and banking institutions behind us," he added.

In all, 12 ministers are attending today's meeting under the chairmanship of Yahya Dikko, current president of the conference and Nigeria's presidential adviser on petroleum and energy affairs.

Iraq is represented by Ramzi Salman 'Abd al Husayn, president of the state oil marketing organization. The ministers are: Belkacem Nabi (Algeria), Gustavo Galindo Velasco (Ecuador), Etienne Guy Mouvagha Tchioba (Gabon), Subroto (Indonesia), Mohammad Gharazi (Iran), 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah (Kuwait), Kamal Hassan Maghur (Libya), Yahya Dikko (Nigeria), 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani (Qatar), Ahmad Zaki Yamani (Saudi Arabia), Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah (United Arab Emirates) and Humberto Calderon Berti (Venezuela).

Tentative Production Agreement

NC232130 Paris AFP in English 2123 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Geneva, Jan 23 (AFP) -- OPEC oil ministers reached tentative agreement tonight on a joint crude oil output ceiling for 1983 combined with national production quotas accepted by Saudi Arabia, Iran and Venezuela, ministers said after their second working session here.

Venezuela's Energy Minister Humberto Calderon Berti said parts of a package to be finalised tomorrow included agreement on individual country quotas that would involve bringing Saudi Arabia's production ceiling down to 4.5 million barrels a day (mbd) under an overall OPEC ceiling of between 17.3 and 17.5 mbd.

Iran's Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi told reporters as he emerged from the conference rooms shortly after 9:30 p.m. (2030 GMT) that OPEC had scored one of its "greatest victories."

Iran has been leading a small group of "radical" OPEC countries in pressing for a cutback in Saudi output and an increased share for the most populated member countries, including Iran.

Mr Gharazi said they had agreed on a ceiling that would "make OPEC more powerful," both in the sharing out of national quotas and the need to maintain unchanged the organization's reference price of 34 dollars a barrel (for the Arabian light quality).

However, OPEC Secretary-General Marc Nan Nguema cautioned that there were still problems and the ministers had considered it "advisable" to return to the conference table tomorrow at [illegible] a.m. (0900 GMT) in the hope of striking a final agreement.

Conference sources said this would depend on a deal being worked out between the Gulf countries, including Saudi Arabia, and the African OPEC countries, chiefly Algeria, Nigeria and Libya, on the thorny problem of differential prices.

Price Cut Not Discussed

LD232350 Vienna OPECNA in English 2305 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Geneva, 23 Jan. 83 (OPECNA) -- At the end of the first day of the consultative meeting of OPEC oil ministers here "there is a 50-50 chance that an agreement will be reached to avoid plunging the work into a state of anarchy," according to Marc Nan Neguema, the organization's secretary general.

Ministers of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries adjourned their discussions this evening and will meet again Monday morning.

Nan Nguema said there was no talk of price cuts and denied reported threats by certain member countries against "over producers."

The secretary general was replying to a question on reports that the meeting was discussing cutting the price of the marker crude, Arabian light, from the present 34 U.S. dollars per barrel to about 30 dollars.

He said demand and the oil market were the determinants of supply, not the individual wishes of member countries.

At the close of today's final session, Nan Nguema told a press conference that the meeting was dealing with more issues than it anticipated. He said the ministers discussed price differentials, but added that lowering the price below 34 dollars would hurt the world economy.

Subroto, the Indonesian minister of mines and energy, was in agreement with the secretary general, pointing out that the issue of a price cut did not come up for discussion.

Subroto told journalists outside the conference hall of Geneva's Intercontinental Hotel that the winter had not been favourable to an increase in demand for oil. "The weather is mild in the northern hemisphere and as such does not create additional demand for oil. It is a fact we have to accept."

Subroto said OPEC's production was now about 17.4 million b/d even though the December conference in Vienna had raised the production ceiling to 18.5 million b/d.

"This means that there is a need to review the ceiling downwards, allocate individual quotas and stabilize the market and prices," he said.

Subroto added: "With commitment on the part of all member countries and strict adherence to individual production quotas, we hope we will succeed in protecting the 34 dollars a barrel price and stabilize the market."

GULF AFFAIRS

GULF GOVERNMENTS ISSUE STATEMENTS ON COSMOS 1402

GF231420 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1220 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Manama, 23 Jan (WAKH) -- The UAE Civil Defense Department has announced that it has taken all the precautionary measures necessary to face any danger resulting from falling pieces of the Soviet satellite Cosmos.

The general department issued a statement today in which it reassured all citizens and residents in the UAE and urged them to inform the nearest police station or civil defense post as soon as they see any foreign object falling on the ground and to avoid coming near any such objects.

In the Sultanate of Oman, the Council for the Protection of the Environment and Combating of Pollution issued statement No 3, which announced a number of precautionary measures that must be adopted during the period of maximum alert that was announced today in order to avoid any possible dangers if parts of the Soviet satellite, Cosmos, falls.

The statement called on all citizens to begin listening to the radio or watching television in order to keep informed of the details and instructions related to these possibilities.

The second measure urges that if it is confirmed that pieces of the satellite have fallen in Omani territory and when the locations of these pieces are determined, citizens must obey the following instructions: Go immediately to their houses or to the nearest building and remain there until the authorities concerned announce specific instructions and directives on this matter.

The statement urged that no small metallic pieces or fragments found in houses, on rooftops, or on roads should be picked up because these pieces will be highly radioactive and may cause serious burns to whoever touches them, not to mention exposure to high quantities of harmful nuclear radiation.

The statement issued by the Council for the Protection of the Environment in the Sultanate of Oman forbade citizens from eating vegetables or fruits grown in the regions where the pieces and splinters of the satellite are likely to fall until they are examined by experts to confirm their safety.

Statement No 4 issued later by the Sultanate of Oman called on all ministries, other government departments and bodies, and companies to declare a state of maximum readiness in their departments and to appoint duty officers who will be responsible for obtaining information and instructions that have to be followed.

In Manama, the Bahraini Cabinet reviewed during its ordinary meeting today reports in the international press on the fall of the Soviet satellite.

The Cabinet requested the concerned departments to follow up the reports on the satellite's fall from various media and to contact the departments concerned in the region's states to pass on information as it is received.

The Omani Education Ministry announced the closure of schools and educational departments in the Sultanate as of today and through tomorrow, Monday, as a precaution against any dangers that may take place as a result of the fall of any debris from the Soviet satellite.

This was stated in Statement No 5 which was issued a short while ago by the Council for the Protection of the Environment and Combating of Pollution declaring a state of maximum alert due to the possibility that parts of the Soviet satellite Cosmos 1402 may fall.

The communique requested all fishermen not to go to sea as of 1800 today until 1800 tomorrow, Monday.

It is worth noting that Muscat radio, which used to stop transmission between 0800 and 1100 GMT daily, cancelled all its foreign programs usually broadcast daily during this period and continued its Arabic broadcast as a precaution for any emergency, broadcasting communiques in Arabic as well as in English.

BAHRAIN

JORDAN'S KING HUSAYN PAYS BRIEF VISIT TO MANAMA

Report on Arrival

GF221458 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1438 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Manama, 22 Jan (WAKH) -- King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan arrived in Manama from Kuwait this afternoon on a brief visit to the State of Bahrain as part of his tour of a number of the region's states.

He was received by Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain; Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister; and a number of senior Bahraini officials.

During this visit, King Husayn will hold talks with Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah and senior Bahraini officials on current Arab developments, on the results of his visits to the Soviet Union and China as head of the Arab seven-member committee delegation, in addition to the results of his visit to the United States, and on issues of mutual interest.

King Husayn is accompanied by a delegation comprising of Mudar Badran, the prime minister; Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Amir Khammash, court minister; and a number of senior Jordanian officials.

Meeting Held

GF221558 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Excerpt] A meeting was held at Al-Qudaybiyah guest palace at 1700 today between the Bahraini side, headed by Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, and the Jordanian side, headed by King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan.

The meeting was attended on the Bahraini side by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister; Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Interior Ministry under secretary for immigration and passport affairs; and Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa', director general of the prime minister's office.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Prince Faysal ibn Husayn; Mudar Badran, prime minister; Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Court; 'Amir Khammash, minister of the Royal Court; and Ahmad al-Hindawi, Jordanian ambassador to Bahrain.

Husayn Departs for Qatar

GF221728 Manama Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Excerpt] His highness the amir was foremost among those who bid farewell to his majesty the Jordanian monarch as he left the country for Doha at 1900 today following a short visit to Bahrain as part of his majesty's tour of a number of the region's countries.

KUWAIT

JORDAN'S HUSAYN HOLDS TALKS WITH AMIR 22 JAN

LD221300 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1103 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Jan (KUNA) -- King Husayn of Jordan arrived here today on a visit to Kuwait, during which he will hold talks with the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. It was officially announced that the talks will deal with the question of bilateral relations and current Arab conditions.

Immediately upon his arrival, King Husayn met with the amir of Kuwait.

The talks were attended from the Jordanian side by Prince Faysal ibn Husayn, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad al-Lawzi and Minister of the Court 'Amir Khammash.

From the Kuwaiti side, the talks were attended by heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information and Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, and Minister of the Amir's Cabinet Shaykh Khalid al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

King Husayn is visiting Kuwait on the first leg of his second tour, which will take him to the Gulf countries this week. In his first tour, the king visited Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Departs After Talks

LD221512 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Jan (KUNA) -- King Husayn of Jordan ended a brief visit to Kuwait today and has now left after talks with the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah.

King Husayn is scheduled to visit Qatar, Bahrain, and the Sultanate of Oman today and tomorrow.

According to an official Kuwaiti spokesman, the Jordanian-Kuwaiti talks at Kuwait's International Airport covered a number of matters including "the present Arab situation and bilateral relations."

The spokesman added that King Husayn acquainted the amir of Kuwait "with the results of contacts he has had with friendly and fraternal countries since the Fes summit conference. The spokesman gave no other details.

OMAN

HEAD OF OMANI DELEGATION TO TALKS WITH PDRY NAMED

GF221246 Doha QNA in Arabic 1125 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Muscat, 22 Jan (QNA) -- The QNA correspondent in Muscat has learned that Muhammad ibn 'Ali al-Ghutaybi, deputy minister of state and wali of Dhofar, will lead the Sultanate of Oman's delegation to the meeting of the joint border committee between the Sultanate and the PDRY, which is scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi next Tuesday. The committee meeting is being held to follow up the agreement of principles on normalization of relations between the two countries signed last October.

COUNCIL ISSUES STATEMENT ON COSMOS 1402

GF221900 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Statement issued by the Council for the Protection of the Environment and Combating of Pollution on 22 January]

[Text] Information has reached the Sultanate on the possibility that parts of the Soviet Cosmos 1402 satellite might enter the stratosphere above the Arabian Sea. In response to this, the Council for the Protection of the Environment and Combating of Pollution held an emergency meeting this afternoon chaired by His Highness Shaykh Salim Nasir, minister of communications and vice chairman of the council.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad az-Zubayr, minister of industry and commerce and member of the council; Dr Mubarak al-Khadduri, minister of health and member of the council; Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, minister of land and municipalities affairs and member of the council; Badr ibn Su'ud ibn Harib, minister of interior and member of the council; Staff Major General Hasan Ihsan Nasif, Defense Ministry under secretary and assistant chief of staff; Shaykh ibn Hamad al-Battashi, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and Dr Salim 'Abd as-Salam, secretary general of the council.

During the meeting the council discussed possible measures to be taken. The council considers itself to be in open session to institute measures to meet any developments which might occur.

The council will announce any other information reaching it, as well as measures the citizens and the concerned parties should take if the need arises.

State of Emergency

GF231334 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1055 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Report on Statement No 2 issued by the Council for the Protection of the Environment and Combating of Pollution on 23 January]

[Text] Muscat, 23 Jan (WAKH) -- The Sultanate of Oman has announced a maximum state of emergency to confront any consequences resulting from the fall of parts of the Soviet Cosmos 1402 satellite. The Council for the Protection of the Environment and Combating of Pollution in the Sultanate of Oman, which is continuing its meetings, issued Statement No 2 a while ago, in which it announced an emergency situation during the period from now until 1800 on Monday, 24 January 1983.

The council announced that it will broadcast a statement explaining the measures which should be followed and the precautions which should be taken during this period in case parts of this satellite fall in the Sultanate of Oman. The Council for the Protection of the Environment and Combating of Pollution issued Statement No 1 in Muscat yesterday, which announced that some parts of the nuclear-operated Soviet espionage satellite might possibly enter the stratosphere above the Arabian Sea.

QATAR

JORDAN'S HUSAYN HOLDS TALKS IN DOHA 22 JAN

GF221824 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Doha, 22 Jan (WAKH) -- King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan arrived in Doha from Manama this evening on a 1-day visit to Qatar within his tour of a number of the region's states.

He was received upon arrival by Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani.

The Jordanian monarch is accompanied on his visit by a high-ranking delegation that includes Mudar Badran, prime minister; Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Court; 'Amir Khammash, Royal Court minister; and a number of Jordanian officials.

First Round of Talks

GF221840 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Excerpts] The first round of official talks was held at the Guest Palace at 2000 today between Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and his brother King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan.

The meeting was attended on the Qatari side by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; and 'Isa al-Kuwari, information minister.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Mudar Badran, prime minister; Ahmad al-Lawzi, chief of the Royal Court; 'Amir Khammash, Royal Court minister; and Dr Khalid 'Ubaydat, Jordan's ambassador to Qatar.

The talks dealt with the current Arab and international situations with regard to the Middle East question. The Jordanian monarch briefed the amir on the results of his tour of the major cities he recently visited as chairman of the Fes summit Arab seven-member delegation. He also briefed that amir on his talks with President Reagan and on the results of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

The talks of the two great leaders also dealt with the means to improve Qatari-Jordanian relations in various fields.

Meetings Resume

GF230830 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Doha, 23 Jan (WAKH) -- The second and last round of talks between His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan resumed this morning.

This meeting is regarded a completion of the discussions that began yesterday, which were restricted to the two leaders.

The Jordanian monarch arrived in Qatar yesterday on a visit within a tour in the area countries.

Badran on Talks

GF231130 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Doha, 23 Jan (WAKH) -- Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran has praised the results of the talks that took place between Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and King Husayn of Jordan, who is currently visiting Doha.

In a statement to the Qatari paper AL-'ARAB, Mudar Badran said: We appreciate the amir of Qatar's support for Palestinian rights and his backing for joint Arab action for the good of our nation and its fateful rights. He indicated that there is joint interest to support the PLO, adding that all Arab countries have to support it and back it because it is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He stressed that the results of the Palestinian-Jordanian talks are in favor of the Arab nation; besides, they reinforce its unity and steadfastness vis-a-vis the challenges.

The Jordanian prime minister described Jordanian-Palestinian relations as being good, strong, and fraternal where they are dominated by understanding and identical views to rescue the people from the occupation and liberate the occupied territories. He stressed that these relations develop continuously for the best of the two peoples and for the best of the Palestinian issue, the Arabs' leading issue.

Mudar Badran is accompanying the Jordanian king on his current visit to Qatar within his current tour of the Arab Gulf countries.

Husayn Departs for Oman

GF230936 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Doha, 23 Jan (WAKH) -- King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the delegation accompanying him today left Doha for Muscat after concluding a 1-day visit to Qatar, during which he held talks with the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. Talks centered on the current Arab and international situation in addition to the developments in the Middle East.

The Jordanian monarch informed the amir of Qatar about the results of his tour to the capitals of the UN Security Council permanent member countries -- while leading the Arab seven-member committee that stemmed from the Fes summit -- in addition to the results of his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the results of the Palestinian-Jordanian talks. The discussions of the two leaders covered means of promoting relations between the two countries in the various fields.

The amir of Qatar saw off the Jordanian king at Doha International Airport.

The Jordanian monarch is currently undertaking a tour of the region, which has so far covered Kuwait and Bahrain in addition to Qatar.

SAUDI ARABIA

PHILIP HABIB ARRIVES IN RIYADH 22 JANUARY

GF221856 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Philip Habib, the U.S. envoy to the Middle East, arrived in Riyadh from Cairo today on a visit to Saudi Arabia.

During his visit to Egypt, Philip Habib met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. They discussed the Middle East situation and the results of the contacts Philip Habib is carrying out in several capitals in the area regarding Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and the results of the joint Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli talks.

Meets With Fahd

LD221945 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1855 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Riyadh, 22 Jan (SPA) -- At 2130 His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received the U.S. President's envoy to the Middle East, Philip Habib, in the presence of the U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom, Richard Murphy. Habib had arrived in Riyadh earlier this evening on a visit to the Kingdom.

KING FAHD RECEIVES SYRIAN MILITARY CHIEF

LD221246 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received General Hikmat ash-Shihabi, chief of the Syrian General Staff, in his office in the Royal Court at Al-Ma'dhar at 1300 today. The general conveyed to his majesty a verbal message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The Syrian official arrived in Riyadh this morning and was welcomed on arrival by Chief of the Saudi General Staff General Muhammad Salih al-Hammad.

MUBARAK INTERVIEWED BY ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT

NC211530 Cairo MENA in English 1430 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] London, Jan 21 (MENA) -- Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said that a break-off of diplomatic relations with Israel on Egypt's part would not help the Palestine cause, while Israel would benefit from it more than would Egypt and the Arabs as a whole.

If Egypt had broken off its relations with Israel during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, he added, Israel would have used that card to claim that the Arabs do not really want peace and would have used this to strike at any other Arab country.

In the first part of an interview with "ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT," the Arabic-language newspaper published in London, to be printed tomorrow, President Mubarak said:

"Usually in such cases, matters should not be escalated to the point of no return, nor should one perform a theatrical move such as the rupture of relations".

President Mubarak, stressing Egypt's abidance by its treaties with Israel, underlined that the Camp David accord and the overall solution framework are the only two documents by which Israel abides.

"Should we make full use of the two documents, we would be able to press Israel, and thus find ourselves in a better position", President Mubarak said.

He cautioned, in this conection, that rejection (on the Arabs' part) is what Israel wished for most. "At a time the Arabs are not offering any solutions, Israel is building settlements that by tomorrow will turn into a fait accompli," President Mubarak said.

He pointed out that some of the Arabs did not object to Camp David, but had only to go along with the Arab realities.

He underlined his conviction that had there been an Arab accord, Israel would have been today in an unenviable position.

President Mubarak said: "Israel exists, whether Egypt recognizes it or not. The two super-powers recognize it. The whole world recognizes it. America helps it. The Soviet Union guarantees its existence".

The Egyptian president turned down the claims that Israel had invaded Lebanon by counting on the Camp David agreements and withdrawing its forces from the Egyptian border to Lebanon.

"The Israeli forces on the Egyptian border underwent no change," he said. "Israel didn't use those forces to fight Lebanon. Information available to the world through American and Soviet satellites show that 50 percent of Israel's mechanized forces are stationed on Egypt's border, and 40 percent of its land forces are stationed from Rafah (at the northern tip of the border) to the Negev (in Israel). Israel deployed its strategic reserve forces nearer to Egypt during the invasion of Lebanon".

President Mubarak disclosed that he was told by some Syrian officials, as well as other (non-Syrian) officials who are close to the Syrians, that there was a "gentlemen's agreement" between Syria and Israel.

Elaborating, the Egyptian president said that at the outset of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the Israeli troops went as close as only fifty metres to the Syrian troops.

President Mubarak wondered in this regard whether the Syrian forces were not present in Lebanon for the sake of maintaining Lebanon's territorial integrity.

President Mubarak said that he heard from some people, whom he declined to identify, that there had been an agreement between the Syrians and the Israelis that the Israelis should march into Lebanon as far as forty kilometers and then stop. "That way, Israel would be having part of Lebanon and Syria would have another. However, the Israelis exceeded that limit agreed upon with the Syrians, "President Mubarak said.

Of Egypt's relations with other Arab countries, President Mubarak said: "All Arab capitals are close to Egypt, with the exception of our brothers in Syria." This was a reference to Syria's engagement in anti-Egypt press campaigns.

The Egyptian president said he would welcome any Syrian official to visit Cairo as an initiative for improving the relations between the two countries.

"President Hafiz al-Asad was a friend on mine," he said. "I want no enmity with anybody".

About Libya, he said: "We are exchanging no insults. As for the resumption of relations with them, this is up to them at any time".

President Mubarak said Egypt has declared and undeclared relations with the other Arab countries, but the return of their ambassadors to Cairo was left to them to decide at their convenience. "I don't want to interfere," he added.

The president said: "If any Arab country with which Egypt has no diplomatic relations gets into trouble, Egypt will come to its aid. This would not be to establish relations with it," he added, "But out of the fact that Egypt would not abandon any Arab country".

About the idea of forming Arab pacts, the president said it was "unacceptable." He added that Egypt was in favour of Arab solidarity.

He pointed out that there was bilateral coordination between Egypt and some Arab countries over the Palestinian issue, and that there was permanent coordination between Egypt and Iraq in view of Iraq's war with Iran.

President Mubarak said that Egypt was not seeking, out of its help to Iraq, to turn Iraq into a window for Egypt's return to the Arabs. That help, he added, was only prompted by Arab fraternity.

He said Egypt was supplying Iraq with arms not to hit Iran or to occupy any part of its territory, but only to defend itself, he said.

President Mubarak said there were "outstanding ties" between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and when formal relations are restored, they would be warmer than before.

More on Mubarak Interview

NC221547 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak described the Fes summit conference peace resolutions as excellent. He said that they constitute a goal that all Arabs aspire to. We are foremost among those who hope that all these goals can be achieved. If we could achieve them, our deed would be the most glorious of mankind. He expressed his conviction that this plan requires a power to stimulate it. He pointed out that President Reagan's initiative has positive aspects and that we have observations about it.

He said that President Reagan is a force from which we must benefit and that the United States is Israel's life artery.

In the second part of his interview with ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published in London tomorrow, Sunday, Mubarak said that in light of the Fes summit resolutions, we must make use of the advantageous points of Reagan's initiative by encouraging the U.S. President so that we may achieve as much as we can of what was specified at Fes at the negotiations table. He further said that without sitting at the negotiations table, it would be difficult [to achieve anything].

On Egyptian-Soviet relations, Mubarak said it is natural that we should have balanced relations with all countries, including the Soviet Union. In this respect, he pointed out that the Soviet Union is a superpower that cannot be ignored. He said that we are a nonaligned country like India. India has special industrial and economic relations with the Soviet Union, but, at the same time, it has relations with the United States. Mubarak denied that there is animosity between Egypt and the Soviet Union.

On a question by the newspaper's correspondent that President Mubarak once said that the return of normal relations with Moscow was contingent upon noninterference in Egypt's domestic affairs -- when did this [as received] happen? Mubarak said: I actually said this and there has been almost no interference, but it is a general principle in Egypt's foreign policy. He said that the question of exchanging ambassadors is a matter of time.

In assessing Egypt's relations with the United States and whether the United States has fulfilled its commitments toward Egypt regarding the armament program and the agreed upon volume of economic aid, Mubarak pointed out that there is no disagreement on the dates or on the economic aspect. Mubarak demanded [talab] that the United States demonstrate flexibility toward Egypt's free use of the aid, as it does with Israel, which receives the aid by a check and spends as it pleases.

On the nature of his forthcoming visit to the United States and the results he hopes for, President Mubarak said that he planned to pay an official visit to Canada and that when President Reagan learned about this, he invited him to visit Washington. Mubarak said that during his visit, he will discuss bilateral economic issues, the future of the Arab issue and the future moves, which are currently crippling everything, that is, the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement.

In his statement to the newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, President Mubarak affirmed that if no agreement is reached between Jordan and the Palestinians, then everything will be lost. He explained that if following the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, no real progress is made until the end of this year, then this means that the situation will be frozen again because the United States will enter the whirlpool of elections during which every sincere effort to solve the crisis will stop.

Asked whether there is a possibility of coordination between him and the Palestinian and Jordanian sides following their new agreement, coordination which he can use beneficially during his visit to the United States, President Mubarak said: If they tell us there is coordination, then we will welcome this and we will speak.

President Mubarak affirmed that coordination greatly benefits the issue. He said that his talks with U.S. officials will deal with the issue. He explained that if we don't push the wheel quickly, we will lose time.

Asked whether he still believes that 100 percent of the cards are in the hand of the United States, President Mubarak said that the United States has great influence over Israel but the very important thing is that we the Arabs are not able to agree.

He said: In case we don't make use of the cards in our hand and unite in fully exploiting them, we will not be able to do anything even if we possess 900 percent of the cards.

President Mubarak affirmed the importance and the necessity of exploiting the good cards in our hands. He expressed the opinion that the time is opportune now for the PLO to recognize Israel. [Words indistinct] recognition that will achieve for it direct contact with the United States.

President Mubarak said that without negotiations, nothing can be achieved, and we must sit at the negotiations table.

President Mubarak affirmed the need to benefit from the Reagan plan [words indistinct].

Answering a question on whether he set a date for solving the problems (?facing the Egyptian economy), President Mubarak said: [passage indistinct]

In his statement, President Mubarak affirmed that Egypt's doors are all open to all Arabs. He said: Whether we like it or not and whether we accept it or not, Egypt is an Arab state and our Arab brothers have a right in Egypt.

The president explained that he does not want to talk much about this subject so that the Arabs will not think Egypt wants them for the sake of aid. He affirmed that Egypt is following the correct course, believing that increasing production is the only way to change Egypt's face and solve its problems. He said: For the first time since the 60's we are drawing up a 5-year plan. We have been preparing it for a year and we will adhere to it. However, if the plan needs to be amended at any time, this will be done by correct constitutional measures.

President Mubarak noted that for the first time 700 million pounds have been allocated for the industrial sector this year. He said that this is a big sum to support the public sector industry so that production may increase and so that we may export surplus goods, earn foreign currency, and balance payments with the other states.

President Mubarak noted that economic problems cannot be solved overnight. He said that the United States, England, Germany, France, and Italy have several economic problems. The economy is a complicated process the results of which do not appear in 1 or 2 years.

Answering a question, President Mubarak explained that his regime differs from that of late Presidents Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir and Anwar as-Sadat and that he has an economy which he wants to build and for this reason stability should be achieved.

President Mubarak also explained that he is beginning a new era, the circumstances of which completely differ from the previous two eras and that he will benefit from the two regimes of leaders 'Abd an-Nasir and As-Sadat.

Speaking about himself, President Mubarak said that he is the type that does not hurry things but takes his time to study them calmly.

He added that he does not want advisers to be centers of power noting that the advisers can complicate things if they are not done their way.

President Mubarak noted in this respect that Egypt has many experts and scientists and that Egyptian experts and scientists are spread out throughout the Arab world, in the United States and other countries. He wondered why he should rely on one or two, and said that he studies everything without announcing it, and receives and holds contacts with several people without publicizing this.

President Mubarak declined to comment on a question regarding suggestions attributed to the assistant socialist prosecutor regarding the existence of a gang of capitalists and monopolists controlling the Egyptian economy and attempting to corrupt it. He said: I do not interfere in justice. However, we are aware of everything and will not allow anyone to play with the Egyptian economy.

President Mubarak also rejected what the paper's correspondent noted, that some foreign observers have agreed with the suggestions of the assistant socialist prosecutor. He has said that the monopolists gang which wants to corrupt the Egyptian economy is trying to strike at President Mubarak's regime. The president said: I do not think the assistant socialist prosecutor means this. The foreign correspondents are sitting outside reading papers but there is nothing concealed from me.

President Mubarak noted that corruption never ends in any part of the world and said: We commit corruptors to justice and do not cover them up. We are a country whose system is socialist and democratic and we are rectifying our course in this field.

Asked if the case of 'Ismat as-Sadat was an effort to strike the centers of corruption more strongly and seriously, President Mubarak said that corruption exists throughout the world and that there were 6 or 7 or 10 cases of corruption in Egypt, while there are hundreds of cases of corruption in the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union.

President Mubarak said that corruption exists even in the poorest states and that there are states which take their people's budget to spend on three or four persons while their people find nothing to eat.

President Mubarak emphasized that whoever is proved to be corrupt in Egypt will be referred to justice.

On the emergency law and whether there is a dire need of keeping it in force, President Mubarak stressed that the emergency law is used for the country's security only and said that this law has so far not been used against the people.

The president noted that at times there may be attempts against the country's security and against the security of all the people. He stressed that the law is not meant to humiliate any person.

In his remarks about the opposition and the [opposition's] excesses in its newspapers, Mubarak refused to dig into the past. He referred to the opposition's raising of the issue of the University of Cairo. He said this issue occurred in 1978 and a verdict was handed down in 1981. He asked why this issue was not raised then.

The newspaper's correspondent asked: Can the motives for the [opposition's] excesses published in the opposition papers be reports in the national newspapers, or more specifically, do the published views of the national newspapers' chief editors express the political leadership's views or their own personal views?

President Mubarak said: What the chief editors publish does not wholly express the political leadership's views. He added that, in general, he does not interfere with the newspapers.

Asked if the arrests and events of September 1981 may recur during his era, his excellency said: We will apply the law in all cases. He expressed his hope that things will absolutely not reach this point. He pointed out that he always meets and talks with the party leaders and that this method was not followed previously.

Asked about the post of the vice president, President Mubarak pointed out that he will be careful in choosing a vice president and that he has not yet reached a decision on this issue. He said that when he reaches a decision, he will announce it in the constitutional manner.

On his expectations for Egypt in 1983 internally and externally, President Mubarak hoped that (?this year) will witness a strong boost for the Palestinian question and that we will not lose too much. He also hoped that the Iran-Iraq war will end, as it is exhausting both peoples and (?preventing) development and progress.

On the domestic level, President Mubarak expressed his hope that the first part of the 5-year development plan will be successfully implemented and that we will (?push) the production wheel as much as we can in the interest and welfare of the Egyptian people.

In reply to a question about certain people's expectations that the 15 May operation will recur to destroy the centers of power, President Mubarak affirmed that a very great change occurred last year -- the parties have regained their freedom and he receives the party leaders and coordinates with them. Mubarak further said that many ministers have been changed and many of the detainees or those held under custody have been released from prisons. He was asked if it is necessary to change the whole generation. He said: I remove anyone who makes mistakes and anyone who does not do his duty well is discharged. Mubarak affirmed that this is the method he is using and that the method of electric shock [as received] is now useless and that if he followed it, there would be no stability in the country. He stressed that the characteristics of stability must be established so that production and development can progress.

MUBARAK RECEIVES 'URGENT' MESSAGE FROM 'ARAFAT

NC231320 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA) -- MENA has learned that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today received an important and urgent message from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for President Husni Mubarak.

'ALI RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM ISRAEL'S SHAMIR

NC231425 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jan (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has received a message from Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The message was passed by Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sasson, who was received by 'Ali today.

It has been learned that the message deals with Egyptian-Israeli relations and the efforts for a settlement of the situation in Lebanon and for the withdrawal of the foreign forces, including the Israeli forces, from Lebanon.

It has also been learned that during his meeting with Sasson, 'Ali spelled out the Egyptian viewpoint of Egyptian-Israeli relations and the difficulties facing these relations because of Israel's practices.

During the meeting 'Ali referred to the principles governing Egypt's stand on the situation in Lebanon and which are represented by the need for the quick withdrawal of the Israeli forces and for the departure of the remaining foreign forces from Lebanon and for the noninfringement on Lebanon's unity and independence in any way.

It has been learned that the Foreign Ministry will study the Israeli message and will prepare a reply to it.

NINTH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS BEGINS IN KHALDAH

NC240845 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0832 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Dispatch by official delegation of Lebanese Ministry of Information in Khaldah in Arabic, French, and English, processed from English -- live]

[Text] Around exactly 1010 today, an explosion was heard about 200 meters from Lebanon Beach Hotel. Nothing precise has been so far given concerning any people injured or anything else around the explosion. But it seems that a shell fell, and no news has been given whether material damage was registered. But to mention here that quite little time after the explosion some firing was heard, and the siren of an ambulance was in the vicinity.

At the moment, the heads of delegations are meeting, after allowing photographers and journalists to take pictures. They are meeting in a closed session at the present moment.

This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah. We will be with you any time anything comes up.

Uncertainty Prevails

NC241012 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Our team at the Lebanon Beach Hotel will now speak to you:

The ninth round of the negotiations began in Khaldah at 1030 today in an atmosphere of uncertainty and of divergent stands. The explosion which took place near the Lebanon Beach Hotel contributed to the creation of a state of convulsion [at-tashannuj] and concern, which was soon dissipated after it transpired that the explosion was the result of the fall of a shell on a building in the area. The explosion slightly wounded one person. Consequently, the Israeli Forces arrested several persons and carried out a large-scale combing operation.

Before the start of today's session, we asked Dr Antione Fattal what his expectations were. He answered: I do not want to anticipate events. I am quiet by nature.

Dr Fattal's statement did not convince us. There were no signs of satisfaction on the faces.

Talks Center on Subcommittees

NC241039 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1007 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] This is the Voice of Lebanon speaking to you from Khaldah:

The discussions at the meeting, which is still in progress, centered on the convocation of the subcommittees and the places of their meeting now that Lebanon has rejected Herzliyya and approved of Nahariyya as a possible venue for holding the negotiations.

At the outset of the session, Dr Antoine Fattal explained the Lebanese stand on the issues under discussion. David Kimche explained the Israeli viewpoint.

In the meantime, contacts took place between the Lebanese delegation and the political operations room in the B'abda palace within the framework of the consultations.

Regarding the shell which fell several meters from the Israeli roadblock leading to the Lebanon Beach Hotel, a military expert told the Voice of Lebanon that the explosion was caused by a 107-mm artillery shell. However, the situation is not yet fully clear because the Israelis have imposed a security and information blockade around the place of the explosion.

On another level, the Voice of Lebanon has learned that a number of military personnel will join the Lebanese delegation after an agreement is reached on the framework of the subcommittees' activities. A number of journalists including Dr Dawud as-Sayigh and Dr Amin al-Ma'luf joined the information group of the Lebanese delegation. They are in addition to Major 'Atif Tarabay, the delegation's spokesman, and Lieutenant Albert al-Haj, the information coordinator among the delegations to the negotiations.

Plenary Session Ends

NC241059 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1044 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Dispatch by the official delegation of the Lebanese Ministry of Information in Khaldah in Arabic, French, and English; processed from English -- live]

[Excerpt] This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah. The first morning round of negotiations between the three delegations ended at exactly 1220 today. Mr Avi Pazner, official spokesman for the Israeli delegation, declared that we have been meeting and discussing different problems on the agenda and the different principles regarding these problems. The delegations dealt specially today in a plenary session with the question of security arrangements. We have now ended the plenary session, and we will meet later on in subcommittees to discuss further more.

And concerning tomorrow's meeting, nothing clear has been decided. But further information will be provided in the final communique to be issued later this afternoon.

We have just received that the subcommittees, which were formed, may have already begun their discussion of the different problems on the agenda.

Subcommittees Begin Activities

NC241116 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1046 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon team in Khaldah is now on the line with us. To Khaldah:

Dear listeners: The subcommittees began their activities a short while ago. Their members were distributed among the Lebanon Beach Hotel rooms here in Khaldah. The subcommittee meetings mean that an agreement has been reached on the framework of action they will follow during their meetings.

Spokesman on Proceedings

NC241124 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1105 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Dispatch by the official delegation of the Lebanese Ministry of Information in Khaldah in Arabic, French, and English; processed from English -- live]

[Text] This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah. The official press attache for the Leganese delegation, Dr Dawud Sayigh, gave the following information:

The head of the Lebanese delegation, Dr Antoine Fattal, in an opening speech made a general review of the situation since the Israeli invasion until the present stage of negotiations. Dr Fattal reviewed the relations between Israel and Lebanon since 1949 war. Then Dr Fattal also made a review of the circumstances which accompanied and led to the signature of the Cairo Agreement. Ambassador Fattal then put forward some (?factual) situations and questions emanating from the present state of Lebanon and its conditions, and the true meaning or the reality about the Israeli demands, which, as Dr Fattal put it, lebanon can in no way accept, because as he put it, it would expose Lebanon's internal and external position to enumerable dangers.

Dr Fattal also put forward a protocol agreement to organize the relations with the participation of the three parties concerned in the negotiations process.

Later on, a discussion over the security arrangements followed in which Colonel Munir Ruhayyim detailed the Lebanese point of view, which was discussed until the session broke off at exactly 1220 today.

This is the official delegation of the Ministry of Information reporting from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah.

Kimche Statement at Session

NC241237 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1203 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Dispatch by the official delegation of the Lebanese Ministry of Information from Khaldah in Arabic, French, and English; processed from English -- live]

[Excerpts] Parallel to the Lebanese declaration which Dr Fattal had made earlier and which we will report to you later on, Avi Pazner, spokesman for the Israeli delegation, declared the following:

I wanted to add something about the plenary session of this morning in which the head of the Israeli delegation, Dr Kimche, reviewed also, like the head of the Lebanese delegation, the history of the relations between Israel and Lebanon, stressing that our action inside Lebanon was in no way directed against neither state of Lebanon nor the people of Lebanon to which we wish well, as Pazner said. Our action was directed against PLO terrorists, as he put it, who established a state within a state in southern Lebanon and who threatened our security on the northern border. In our view this came about because in 1969, as Avi Pazner put it, Lebanon was forced to accept a dictate from Arab countries which was, I would say, an attempt on its sovereignty.

Avi Pazner went on to say: In order to avoid all that, we are negotiating with Lebanon not only security arrangements on our northern border in southern Lebanon but also to establish good-neighborly relations within our two countries, because, as he put it, if that is not achieved, no security arrangements can hold. And we hope very much that Lebanon will know how to resist any pressure from those Arab states who are trying now to prevent an agreement between Lebanon and Israel. Our aim, Pazner said, is to see a strong, independent, and sovereign Lebanon living at peace with Israel. And this is what we are negotiating for. Thank you very much.

This was the end of the declaration of Avi Pazner, official spokesman for the Israeli delegation.

All we can say about the present stage of negotiations is that at exactly 1350 today, the subcommittees which were formed this morning ended their meetings, and they are now having lunch in the Lebanon Beach Hotel.

SYRIAN, IRANIAN, LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET

JN210942 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] A meeting was held this morning at the Foreign Ministry in Damascus attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and Muhammad az'Zuwayy, secretary of General People's Committee for Justice in Libya. The meeting was also attended by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; Nasir Qaddur, assistant foreign minister; and the members of the delegations accompanying the Iranian and Libyan delegations.

Tehran Report on Meeting

LD211812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] According to the report of our correspondent in Syria, the tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, and Libya was held in Damascus this morning. In these meetings, which are also being attended by high-ranking political delegations from the three countries, topics on international and regional affairs were discussed. Political observers have attached a great deal of importance to this joint meeting. On the other hand, last night, the Iranian and Libyan foreign ministers met and discussed the events of the region. At the end of last night's meeting, it was said that the present situation in the region is leaning toward further consolidation of U.S. and Israeli influence and that, unfortunately, some seemingly Muslim countries are also following the same path. Just before leaving for Syria, Mr Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs, referring to the conspiracies of the United States and the Zionist regime, emphasized that the time has come for the progressive countries of the region to confront those conspiracies with a decisive and serious move.

Damascus Meeting Joint Communique

LD231610 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Joint communique issued at the end of the 21-22 January meeting of the foreign ministers of Libya, Syria, and Iran in Damascus; simultaneously released in Tehran, Damascus, and Tripoli on 23 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This is your nation -- one nation -- and I am your Lord, who is to be worshipped.[statement attributed to Prophet Mohammad] The foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the foreign minister of Syrian Arab Republic, and the secretary of justice and deputy of the General People's Foreign Relations Committee of Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ] met in Damascus from 6 to 7 Rabi al-Thani 1403, which corresponds to the 1st and 2d Bahman 1361 [21-22 January 1983] and reviewed the international situation as well as the tense situations in the region, brought about by attempts by U.S. imperialism and Zionism to impose their domination on nations and the region, and destroy their national independence. The three participants, the Iranian, Libyan, and Syrian delegations, discussed the following:

The invasion of Lebanon by the Zionist regime, aimed at destroying Lebanon's independence and national unity and smashing Palestinian resistance and dealing a blow to Syria; the aggressive war launched by the Saddam regime against the Islamic Revolution of Iran, aimed at annihilating the Islamic Revolution and eliminating its liberating role in the region, as well as disrupting the role of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran in confronting the Zionist enemy; the threats directed against SPLAJ;

The existing fraternal relations between Iran and the Arab world as well as the importance of strengthening these relations on the basis of friendship and cooperation and securing the interests of Arab and Iranian peoples against plots hatched by imperialism and the Zionist regime in Palestine; designs by U.S. imperialism and Zionism, aimed at the liquidation of the aspirations of Palestine. Taking cognizance of the above mentioned points, the following were agreed upon:

1. To stand by Lebanon against Zionists' aggression and extend financial and phychological support to that country to end Zionism's occupation; to call on the Lebanese nation to firmly resist occupation; to emphasize the need to reject the terms which the Zionist regime intends to impose on Lebanon.

2. To take a firm stand against attempts aimed at under-mining the aspirations of Palestine by means of extending the Camp David Accords and ensnaring other regional forces to participate in it. In this connection, the three parties stressed their opposition to the attempts made to return Egypt to the Arab fold and Islamic organisations, without that country's rejection of the treacherous Camp David agreements.

3. The participants declared their firm stand supporting the struggles by the Palestinian nation to liberate the usurped territories, particularly the noble Quds, and defend their rights to return and to decide their fate and on the basis of an independent government throughout theIslamic land, as well as resisting all plans aimed at leading the PLO to recognize the Zionist enemy or entering into negotiations with it for the purpose of underestimating the permanent rights of the Palestinian nation. They called on all parts and officials of Palestine to consolidate their unity and solidarity against these plans and armed struggle in order to obtain the Palestinian nation's full rights.

4. Stressing their condemnation of all attempts aimed at pressuring the PLO to make concessions diametrically opposed to the just struggles and legitimate objectives of the organization, the three parties condemned attempts made by imperialism and Zionism to create a Baghdad-Cairo axis in order to confront the revolutionary regional forces.

5. The participants condemned the launching of the war by Saddam's regime against the Islamic Revolution of Iran at a time when this revolution had taken a stand in line with the aspirations of Palestine and against imperialism and Zionism. In this connection, the participants stressed the importance of strengthening fraternal relations between Iran and the Arab world on the basis of cooperation, friendship, reciprocal measures, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs, and expressed their support for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the stands it has taken and for defending its legitimate rights. Moreover, the participants demanded an end to all types of aid to Saddam's regime which could prolong the war and increase the two nations' suffering and losses. They also stressed the importance of the uprising by the people and patriotic forces of Iraq in order to rid themselves of the Saddam regime and the possibility of utilizing all the potential available to the Iraqi and Iranian nations side by side with the Arab and Islamic ummah in the war against the Zionist enemy.

6. The three parties condemned the policy of applying force and threats and the use of economic and military pressure, used by U.S. imperialism against Muslim and Arab nations. They also condemned the policy of setting up U.S. military bases which threaten the security and peace of the peoples of the Third World as well as those of all nations.

7. The three parties emphasized the importance of reactivating the steadfastness front and the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the activities of the front in order to confront instigations by imperialism and Zionism.

8. Praising the heroic stands adopted by Arab peoples in Palestine and the Occupied Territories as well as their resistance against the Zionist occupiers and the repressive methods taken to turn Palestinian territories and other occupied Arab lands into Jewish lands, the three sides emphasized the need to continue financial and psychological support for these heroic struggles.

9. The participants praised the glorious role played by the Syrian Armed Forces, the Palestinian forces and the Lebanese as well as the sacrifices made for the defense of fraternal Lebanon and to strengthen and support it in confronting the occupying Zionist forces.

10. The three sides condemned the insolent attacks by international Zionism and its allies on Syria's legitimate rights to have means of defending itself. They considered these attacks a preamble to a preplanned aggression against the Syrian Arab Republic. Consequently, they declared their solidarity in confronting any aggression against Syria.

11. The participants emphasized their solidarity with SPLAJ against the continued aggressions and provocations by the United States in the airspace and territorial waters of SPLAJ; they also condemned U.S. economic sanctions against the Libyan nation, aimed at postponing Libya's social and economic growth and preventing that country's support for liberation struggles;

12. The participants reviewed ways of strengthening the anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist front and expressed their firm opposition to plans which violate the sovereignty and independence of the region's nations. In this connection, they stressed the need to speed up the convening of the steadfastness session with the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to mobilize all political, military, and economic forces to confront imperialism and Zionism's aggression.

13. The three countries declared their agreement to continue these types of contacts for the purpose of consultation and coordination in order to adopt identical stands against forces opposed to progress and liberation of nations and the region's countries. They agreed to have the next session in Tehran.

IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR TEHRAN

LD222126 Tehran IRNA in English 2028 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, Jan 22 IRNA -- Iran's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, after three days of talks with Syrian and Libyan officials left for Tehran this afternoon. Prior to his departure Velayati told IRNA that some talks were "very positive" and expressed optimism that "the talks would give new momentum to the steadfastness front."

Also Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam who was present at the airport said "we evaluate the results of the tri-party talks here as being very positive."

Dr. Velayati arrived here Thursday and held several rounds of talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam and Libyan Justice Minister az-Zuwayy mainly on the Iraqi imposed war and the general situation in the region, and ways to confront imperialist and Zionist plans in the region.

SANA Report

JN221549 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1502 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, 22 Jan (SANA) -- Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation left Damascus today after a 3-day visit to Syria during which they met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

The Iranian delegation was seen off at Damascus international airport by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Nasir Qaddur, assistant foreign ministers; Shahir ad-Duray'i, head of the Asian Department at the Foreign Ministry; Misbah Dalati, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; the Iranian ambassador in Damascus; and the embassy staff.

LIBYA'S AZ-ZUWAYY WINDS UP DAMASCUS VISIT

JN231259 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jan, (SANA) -- Muhammad az-Zuwayy, secretary of the General Peoples Committee for Justice and acting secretary of liaison for foreign affairs in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, left Damascus this morning at the end of a 4-day visit to Syria.

TISHRIN ON ISRAELI THREATS, USSR SUPPORT

JN221002 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, 22 Jan (SANA) -- The newspaper TISHRIN published here today affirmed that Israel's threats do not frighten a country that believes in the Arab message and is determined to defend it regardless of the sacrifices. In its comment today, the paper said that Syria's pan-Arab position is the target for the campaign of statements by Israel and Washington against Syria and that these statements constitute a prelude to military operations against Syria. The paper said that, as far as the Americans, Zionists, and the agents of Camp David are concerned, Syria is the main obstacle preventing the capitulation of the Arabs.

The paper added that the aggressiveness and arrogance of the Zionist enemy was further consolidated by the invasion of Lebanon, the suspicious Arab silence that accompanied that invasion, the flocking of reactionary rulers to Washington adopting Reagan's liquidation plan, and the loud calls urging the Palestinians to join forces with King Husayn and the camp. This was also consolidated by the Iraqi regime which relinquished its mask of zealous pan-Arabism, took refuge under the camp's canopy and blessed the negotiation efforts with the enemy.

The paper explained that all the capitulatory and conspiratorial moves will always be a mere passing cloud because Syria has not been subjugated. Syria has overcome all the experiences of the past and has remained committed to its sincere national and pan-Arab course -- the course of confrontation, continuing the struggle, building its intrinsic capability, and achieving strategic balance in the region.

Concluding its comment, the paper affirmed that Syria is not alone in the arena as the advocates of the camp might imagine. Syria's strength stems from its masses, the Arab nation's masses, its intrinsic capabilities, and the support of friends, foremost of which is the USSR.

PAPER REPORTEDLY ADMITS MISSILES DEPLOYED

JN221319 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] The Damascus daily, TISHRIN, today confirms a report on the deployment of new antiaircraft missiles in Syria. According to the newspaper, the missiles constitute a defensive network against aircraft that violate Syrian airspace.

MINISTERS DIFFER OVER NEGOTIATIONS WITH LEBANON

TA231548 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin and U.S. envoy Philip Habib will meet shortly. Differences of opinion emerged at the Cabinet session this morning regarding the position Israel should adopt in the negotiations about the establishment of early warning stations in Lebanon. Several ministers differed with the defense minister. More details about the positions voiced today at the Cabinet session from our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer:

[Schiffer -- live] Israel is standing on the verge of a comprehensive U.S. offensive; it is going to be accused of foiling negotiations over the [security] arrangements in Lebanon -- Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said today at the Cabinet session. He analyzed the disputed points between Jerusalem and Washington regarding the essence of the arramgements in Lebanon. In his opinion, the Americans are currently trying to persuade Amin al-Jumayyil not to accept Israel's proposals. Referring to the disputed points, Sharon said:

UNIFIL or a multinational force in the south: The United States is opposed to the presence of Haddad's force and supports the presence of UNIFIL or a multinational force. Israel claims it is ready to sign an agreement provided only Lebanese forces are present in that area.

The early warning stations: Minister Sharon said the intention is to establish three bases manned by IDF soldiers who would detect preparations by terrorists in time, in agreement with the Lebanese for a limited and agreed-upon period of time. The United States regards this as harming Lebanon's sovereignty and as an indication of Israeli intention to remain in that country.

Also, regarding the withdrawal of the terrorists, there are differences with the United States. The United States wants to begin the withdrawal of all the forces when the terrorists start withdrawing, rather than wait until their withdrawal has been completed.

And, as is said, there is also the status of Major Haddad's forces in the arrangement. The United States is opposed to giving preferred status to these forces, while Israel insists that their status must be settled in the proposed arrangement.

Minister Sharon said that Lebanon should definitely pay a price for having allowed the terrorists to operate from its territory in the past, just as the Egyptians paid the price in the demilitarization of the Sinai.

As for the early warning stations, Minister Sharon said that if the Syrians want early warning stations he thinks Israel should not be opposed to this.

In the Cabinet, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed his view that there should not be a confrontation with the Americans. The interests of both countries are not necessarily conflicting, the foreign minister said. However, he cautioned against voicing opinions contradicting statements by those negotiating with the Americans.

Commenting on this, Mordekhay Tzipori said: If that is the case, then it would be better not to hold a debate in the Cabinet and just say amen to everything you do there, in the negotiations.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi presented a totally different position from that raised by Ari'el Sharon. Minister Levi asked to reduce differences of opinion with the United States. He said: We must reiterate the basic principles we set out for ourselves in Lebanon: security for Israel, the removal of all foreign forces, and normalization of relations -- exactly in this order.

We should not count on these objectives being achieved in the negotiations in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona. The understanding with the Lebanese is important, Minister Levi said. We should not despair of the negotiations, but we should remember that in addition to whatever is achieved with Lebanon a key objective remains, and that is getting the terrorists and the Syrians out of Lebanon; this can only be achieved through the offices of the United States.

As for the establishment of three warning stations or bases in Lebanon, Minister Levi said that this would call for deliberations with the Americans, and the latter may very well think that this constitutes an Israeli attempt to remain in Lebanon. This has given rise to many suspicions. Minister Levi said this issue must be considered from the political and military points of view and must be discussed thoroughly by the Cabinet. Levi's position was also supported by Ministers Aharon Uzan and Mordekhay Ben-Porat. The latter asked for specific details about the bases Israel is seeking to establish in Lebanon. For example, he asked, how would the soldiers in those bases be protected and what would the access roads to these bases be.

Minister Tzipori also supported Minister Levi's position and said that the bases Ari'el Sharon said Israel is seeking to establish in Lebanon would be of no significance if there is no access to them and if there is not a massive presence of [Israeli] troops in southern Lebanon.

As said, the prime minister will confer with Philip Habib shortly. The meeting will also be attended by the foreign and defense ministers. They will hear a report from Philip Habib prior to his return to Washington, while Habib will hear about Israel's positions.

Shostak Criticizes U.S.

TA231626 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] In the Cabinet session, Minister Shostak expressed his belief that the U.S. Administration is striving to topple the Israeli Government. Minister Nisim vehemently defended Israel's positions in the negotiations.

The prime minister summed up the debate and said he took it that the ministers agree with the positions presented to Philip Habib and empower him not to change these positions.

Cabinet 'Sources' Quoted

TA231612 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Cabinet sources have told our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that if the United States does not change its positions regarding the essence of the arrangements with Lebanon, the objectives of the war set out by Israel will not be attained, and other ways will have to be looked for to attain them. According to these sources, the United States will apparently not change its positions for the time being.

SHARON'S OFFICE DENIES PREEMPTIVE STRIKE PLANNED

TA240523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] The defense minister's office has vehemently denied a report published by NEWSWEEK to the effect that about 2 weeks ago the Israeli Cabinet rejected Minister Sharon's proposal to destroy the SAM-5's in Syria. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal was told that the report is untrue and a pure fallacy.

According to NEWSWEEK, the defense minister called for a preemptive strike to destroy the missile batteries before 1,200 Soviet soldiers could arrive in Syria to operate them. NEWSWEEK notes that the Cabinet was of the opinion that the destruction of the missiles did not justify taking the risk of exacerbating relations with the United States. Also, Israeli experts believe that the missiles pose a menace to slow and high-flying aircraft rather than to Israel's speedy fighters and bombers.

FURTHER ON 20 JAN QIRYAT SHEMONA TALKS

TA211452 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Jan 83 p 3

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] Four subcommittees to deal with various aspects of future relations between Israel and Lebanon were established yesterday during the talks in Qiryat Shemona between the Israeli, Lebanese, and U.S. delegations. The first subcommittee, which will deal with the issue of ending the state of war between Israel and Lebanon, was established during the talks in Khaldah this week. Therefore, five subcommittees are scheduled to operate henceforth parallel to the talks in the plenary.

The four new subcommittees will convene for the first time next week, after the Israeli and Lebanese Governments have elected their representatives. The date of their beginning operations and their first venue has not yet been finally set. It was decided yesterday that they would begin actual work either on Monday in Khaldah or on the following Tuesday in Herzliyya.

The four subcommittees which were established yesterday, in addition to the first subcommittee, are:

-- A subcommittee to determine the security arrangements between the two countries.

-- A subcommittee to determine the framework for mutual relations.

-- A subcommittee dealing with the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanese soil.

-- A subcommittee to determine guarantees for ensuring the full implementation of all the agreements.

As for the working methods of the subcommittees, it was reported that they would include both diplomats and professional experts. The plenary sessions will discuss matters of principle, and when understanding in principle is reached on any subject, the question will be transferred to the pertinent subcommittee. Once decisions are made, the matter will once again be submitted to the plenary meeting for its conclusion and approval.

The plenary meeting yesterday primarily discussed the question of establishing new subcommittees, which are also known as working groups. The establishment of three subcommittees -- on mutual relations, security arrangements, and the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon -- was already decided in the first hour of deliberations yesterday. The afternoon session produced another subcommittee which will deal with the guarantees that will be given to both sides regarding the agreement being maintained.

The notion of establishing another subcommittee on the issue of guarantees was raised by the Lebanese. "Maybe it would be also appropriate to see to the guarantees for implementing the agreements we achieve?" a member of the Lebanese delegation wondered aloud. The head of the Israeli delegation to the talks, Dr David Kimche, responded positively at once.

Sources in the Israeli delegation later explained that "the issue of guarantees is the less important of them all, because once we have finished deliberations on the issue of normalization, security arrangements, and all the rest, the question of guarantees will drop by itself; the actual implementation of the agreements will to a great extent be a guarantee for their existence."

REPORTAGE ON BEGIN-HABIB JERUSALEM TALKS

Schiffer on Talks

TA211235 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer interviewed by telephone by announcer Yitzhaq Ro'e -- live]

[Text] [Schiffer] The Habib-Begin meeting is now taking place almost in solitude. Taking part in it are, on the U.S. side, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Sam Lewis and on the Israeli side Yehuda Avneri, the prime minister's aide, as notetakers. Habib has made it his habit in his last few meetings with the prime minister to minimize participation in them. He is also trying in those meetings with the prime minister to pinpoint the important parts of his stand on the Lebanese issue to find out what he can pass over to the Lebanese when the negotiations continue.

During the morning, as stated, Habib met with the Foreign and Defense Ministers Shamir and Sharon. And now at the end of this week it seems that there were two negotiations this week. There was negotiation with Lebanon, where there was progress, and there was a parallel negotiation with Philip Habib in which, it can be said ironically, there was no progress. Israel and the United States are divided over the essence of the agreement [heskem] with Lebanon. The U.S. targets [matarot] are different. Although the more general aims [ye'adim] might be overlapping between Israel and the United States, the United States sees things differently.

In his talks here, Habib stresses the U.S. desire for a quick withdrawal from Lebanon, for the return of Lebanese independence and sovereignty, and of course for ensuring the security of Israel's northern border. But the United States is opposed to some essential subjects Israel would like to ensure. Among them the subject of the warning stations. This subject came up today in the talks in all its force. Sharon brought this subject up and demanded that Israel insist in the negotiations with Lebanon that it establish warning stations to ensure that the PLO will not return to southern Lebanon. Habib said that he does not think the Lebanese will buy this idea, and the main U.S. fear is that the Syrians as well will then not want to concede their presence in Lebanon and will want warning devices of this kind. [interrupted]

[Question] Shim'on, how do they explain, or what do you hear, about this U.S. pressure? It is not the first time such impatience has arisen.

[Answer] The U.S. impatience, and the apparent Israeli calm, is explained by the fact that behind the Lebanese negotiations stands a much greater idea: implementing the Reagan plan, the peace process according to the Reagan plan, and bringing King Husayn into the negotiations. All sides are looking at these negotiations in Lebanon. Husayn, before he announces his decision on whether to jump into this pool of the peace process, is waiting to see if the U.S. pool has water in it as well -- that is, he is waiting to see whether the United States is capable of forcing Israel to come to an agreement [heskem] in Lebanon according to its plan, and whether the Arab world will accept such an agreement [hesken].

This is why the Americans are so -- at least that is what political sources say -- so hysterical, and so pushy. They want to see an achievement within a week, as Habib said. But now, at the weekend, it can already be said, and it is known to Habib as well, that it is not a matter of 1 week, but of weeks. Meanwhile the Israeli team which runs the negotiations -- Begin, Shamir, Sharon -- act as if they are in no hurry, showing the U.S. envoys their attitude that there are things to talk about, and we should continue talking, but we are not in such a hurry as you are. Husayn might wait for another 3 weeks; then he will have to announce whether he is joining or not. If there is no progress in the negotiations with Lebanon then it will be proof for Husayn that the United States is incapable of forcing Israel to come to some sort of an agreement; therefore, he will not endanger his status in the Arab world and enter such an unknown and unsure process.

Meeting Ends

TA211238 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Ambassador Habib met with Prime Minister Begin at noon, before leaving for Beirut. Habib again tried to convince the prime minister that Israel should give up its demand to establish warning stations in Lebanon for a limited and agreed-upon period of time. Habib is to return to Jerusalem on Sunday to continue the talks with Ministers Shamir and Sharon and the prime minister.

Political sources say that the United States would like to bring a quick end to the negotiations because it wants to prove to King Husayn that it is capable of forcing an agreement on Israel. In the talks today with Habib, the Israeli representatives demanded [darshu] that the United States influence the Lebanese Government to agree to a comprehensive arrangement [hesder].

Habib Returning to U.S.

TA231827 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] U.S. diplomat Philip Habib met this evening in Jerusalem with Prime Minister Begin, Defense Minister Sharon, and Foreign Minister Shamir. The meeting ended a few minutes ago. As he came out of the prime minister's office, Habib said: I have been asked to go back to the United States for consultations.

Further Details

TA231959 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Another meeting between the prime minister and U.S. envoy Habib ended a few minutes ago in Jerusalem without any results. The meeting was also attended by the defense and foreign ministers. The main dispute between Israel and the United States revolves around the issue of the warning stations in Lebanon and their being manned by either Americans or Israelis. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports:

[Ronen] The disputes persisted in the meeting this evening with Habib at the prime minister's office. The prime minister presented Israel's well-known positions and emphasized that he was again empowered by the Cabinet today to insist on the establishment of Israeli early warning stations or IDF bases in Lebanon for a limited period of time, so as not to permit the resumption of terrorist activities. The prime minister does not accept the argument that Syria will also seek to set up bases in Lebanon, because it was Israel -- rather than Syria -- which was harmed by the activities of terrorists there. The defence minister said that Lebanon must pay a price for having allowed the terrorists to operate from its tertitory, just as Egypt paid in the peace treaty when it agreed to demilitarize the Sinai.

This evening Habib did not bring any tidings from Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. In Washington this week he will ask President Reagan for new directives and will suggest how to exert pressure on Israel in order to arrive at a U.S. arrangement in Lebanon next month.

Incidentally, it is absolutely clear today that Menahem Begin's visit to Washington will not take place in February as scheduled. The Cabinet is therefore particularly awaiting tidings from Syria next week about its willingness to withdraw, along with the IDF, as a first stage for the evacuation of foreign forces from Lebanon. So far Habib has not so much as hinted that the Syrians are willing to withdraw.

Habib is scheduled to return to Jerusalem at the beginning of next week, which is apparently going to be a tough [qashe] week in Israeli-U.S. relations.

DISPUTE WITH U.S. OVER LEBANON 'GROWING'

TA230559 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Philip Habib is supposed to return to Jerusalem and will apparently meet with the prime, foreign, and defense miniters. Habib's talks in Israel revealed a dispute with Washington over the arrangements [hesderim] in Lebanon. In its weekly Cabinet session this morning the ministers will receive reports about the negotiations with Lebanon and the talks with Habib. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports:

[Schiffer -- live or recorded] In an atmosphere of a growing and sharpening dispute, Ministers Shamir and Sharon will apparently meet with Philip Habib. The disagreements between Jerusalem and Washington cannot be whitewashed any longer. In other words: The United States made it clear that it is opposed to any Israeli presence in Lebanon as part of the future arrangements [hesderim] there. Habib took off his gloves at the end of the week and when he did not succeed in convincing his colleagues in Jerusalem he began dropping implied threats: I have a mandate from the U.S. President; I am speaking for President Reagan; we have interests in this region; you have announced your intention to withdraw from Lebanon and now your proposals indicate a different intention. We are adamant about this and we will not allow it.

In response, Ministers Shamir and Sharon said that they also do not represent themselves but the Government of Israel, which also has an interest in the region -- to live.

The main point of dispute concerned the proposal to establish in Lebanon, for an agreed-upon limited period of time, three bases in the areas of An-Nabatiyah, Sidon, and Jabal al-Baruk -- which are to prevent the organizing of terrorist bases in the security zones close to Israel -- and the continuation of sea patrols and reconnaissance flights by the Israeli Air Force.

Ambassador Habib is firmly against this because it is harmful to Lebanon's sovereignty. The defense minister's answer: Is the U.S. presence in some European countries and in Japan considered to be harmful to their sovereignty if this is done with their agreement? Israel also opposes stationing U.S. soldiers in southern Lebanon who will be responsible for preventing the penetration of terrorists into the area.

Habib's implied threats were not absent from his talks with the prime minister either, although knowledgeable sources say that the flattery overpowered the threats. The main point is that Washington and Jerusalem are not on the same wavelength on the Lebanon affair, and all the words heard in the past, as if the administration accepted Israel's stands regarding the arrangements in Lebanon with understanding, were unfounded.

IDF SOLDIERS ORDERED NOT TO CROSS U.S. LINES

TA230609 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Israel has made it clear to the United States that strict orders have been given to IDF soldiers not to cross the line of the U.S. units in West Beirut even when they see terrorists crossing the U.S. lines undistrubed to attack IDF soldiers. This was reported at the end of the week by the defense minister to the U.S. ambassador in Israel. The Americans were told that the commander of the Northern Command is holding contacts with the marine commanders of the U.S. contingent of the multinational force.

The IDF spokesman announced tonight that security patrols and observation efforts along the road east of Beirut have been increased in view of the growing number of attempted attacks. The area in question is the part of the road between (Hada Sh'ayfat) and Shima and Khadah, which is a main artery used by the IDF. It is vital to protect it. In all previous attacks, the terrorists escaped to West Beirut, into the area supervised by the multinational forces which include the U.S. units. IDF sources told our military correspondent that Israel did not go out of the area, which was agreed upon at the time among the defense minister, the U.S. mediator Draper, and Colonel (Hamdan) from the Lebanese Army. The U.S. Marines, on the other hand, say that they do not know the division of control in the area.

'TERRORISTS ACTIVE' IN U.S.-CONTROLLED AREA

TA241126 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1110 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Military correspondent Shmu'el Tal report -- live]

[Text] At about 1000, a 107-mm katyusha shell was fired, apparently from the neighborhood of Hayy as-Sullum, north of the Beirut Airport at the hotel where the talks are being held. The katyusha missed the hotel and penetrated a building south of it, An IDF soldier was slightly injured by shrapnel; he was bandaged and continued to discharge his duties. He was not evacuated.

An IDF observation officer detected the path of the katyusha shell from the north, from the direction of Hayy as-Sullum, north of the airport. It is known that this Hayy as-Sullum area and the neighborhoods in South Beirut are where the Marines of the multinational force are stationed; they are in charge of this area.

It seems terrorists are active in the area under their control. Terrorist acts include: On 5 January, several explosive charges were planted east of Hayy as-Sullum and two IDF soldiers were wounded; on 1 January, an IDF major was killed by light weapons fire opened from an area south of the airport. In the last month alone there were five incidents involving casualties: 1 dead and 25 wounded. All the tracks led to the airport area, to the area controlled by the Marines. The Marines claim that the IDF soldiers go into this area and cause clashes with them. We should point out here that the area surrounding the Ar-Rayhan University is supposed to be under the IDF's control. All terrorist activities to date, at least in the last month, originated in the neighborhoods controlled by the U.S. force.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID REPORTEDLY SEEKING NUCLEAR AID

WA241247 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic No 268, 10 Jan 83 p 13

[Text] Algeria is looking for a European source to supply it with a nuclear reactor for peaceful purposes. Knowledgeable Algerian sources asserted to AD-DUSTUR that [President] Chadli Bendjedid probed these sources during his visit to Belgium and France. He received a positive answer from Mitterrand. However, this subject will be discussed in detail during the president's visit to Paris next fall.

LIBYA

PAPER REPORTS UPCOMING COUP IN 'MAGHREB COUNTRY'

WA241248 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic No. 268, 10 Jan 83 p 13

[Text] AD-DUSTUR learned from sources connected with an armed coup that occurred 2 years ago in a Maghreb country that they are preparing for a similar operation on the 26th of this month. The armed group is composed of a number of expatriates in the French capital.

AL-QADHDHAFI BEGINS VISIT TO ROMANIA

For the Bucharest AGERPRES English account of the Romanian state dinner held in honor of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit, including Al-Qadhdhafi's toast referring to the benefits derived from Romanian maintenance of relations with Israel, see the Romania section of the 24 January Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

SUDAN

DAMASCUS REPORTS NUMAYRI ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

JN240700 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Sudan's ruler Ja'far Numayri was the target of an assassination attempt when he came under attack by students during his visit to the Rumbek preparatory school in southern Sudan. An aide, who is a ranking military officer, was wounded during the attempt. Reports indicated that Numayri had to cut short his visit to southern Sudan in view of the explosive situation there resulting from the regime's plans to divide southern Sudan into tribal regions.

The reports added that the situation developed into an armed rebellion and popular uprising when a prominent opposition figure was arrested. The Sudanese regime has quelled the popular uprising and arrested hundreds of Sudanese citizens. The regime, in a subsequent step, enacted a law according to which all demonstrators shall be arrested, imprisoned, and fined.

SOUTHERN SUDANESE RAILWAY STATION ATTACKED

JN240646 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jan (SUNA) -- A group of armed bandits attacked the railway station of (Aryak) in the southern Sudanese township of Awayl in Bahr el-Ghazal Province on 18 January, leaving 13 persons dead. Three others were wounded, and were immediately removed to the hospital for treatment.

Security forces, who were sent to the scene, managed to restore train movements and are still hunting the bandits. In the meantime, a factfinding committee has been formed by the regional government to investigate the incident.

ETHIOPIA

SWAPO'S NUJOMA PAYS 2-DAY VISIT; HOLDS TALKS

Arrival Statement

EA220002 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Comrade Sam Nujoma, president of the Namibian liberation movement, arrived in Addis Ababa today for a 2-day stopover in Ethiopia before travelling to Asia.

On arrival in Addis Ababa, Comrade Nujoma was welcomed at Bole International Airport by Comrade Tibebu Bekele, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other government officials, and the ambassadors of [word indistinct].

In a statement to journalists, the SWAPO leader said that his visit to Ethiopia will enable him to report on progress in SWAPO's independence struggle and on the true general situation in Namibia to the comrade chairman and also the Ethiopian people.

Concerning the current stage of the Namibian independence struggle, Comrade Nujoma revealed the atrocities that the racist South African regime commits in Namibia, explaining that it is carrying out a major conspiracy against independent African states, using Namibia as a springboard.

Comrade Sam Nujoma also disclosed that the plots of the racist South African regime and its protector, American imperialism, to withhold independence from the Namibian people and the South African people in general are constantly being foiled, adding that this is so because the Namibian people are intensifying their independence struggle.

Talks With Mengistu

EA222022 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam, Provisional Military Administrative Council and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] chairman and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Army, today received and held talks with Comrade Sam Nujoma, president of the organization for Namibian independence.

In a ceremony held at the comrade chairman's COPWE Central Committee office, Comrade Sam Nujoma explained in detail to our revolutionary leader the progress of the Namibian independence struggle, the present situation of SWAPO, the activities of the racist South African regime and its protector American imperialism and the conspiracies they are constantly scheming. Comrade Nujoma explained that the racist and terrorist South African regime is doing its utmost to withhold independence from Namibia, and he detailed the aggressive plots it is planning against neighboring independent African states.

Comrade Nujoma said that the Namibian people are constantly intensifying their struggle and foiling the vicious American imperialism, and commended the solidarity of socialist Ethiopia with Namibia in this struggle. Comrade Nujoma said that he and the Namibian people are happy with the successful conclusion of COPWE's second congress and added that they consider the constant revolutionary victories achieved by socialist Ethiopia as their own victory.

Comrade Chairman Mengistu said that the efforts by the South African regime and international imperialism as a whole to stifle the just political, economic and social independence of the Namibian people and other peoples are only temporary, adding that ultimately they will be held responsible and [word indistinct] by history for their actions, and victory will always be to those who struggle for a just cause. He reaffirmed the unwavering solidarity of the broad masses of Ethiopia for the Namibian people in their struggle against racist racism and oppression.

Comrade Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, minister of foreign affairs and COPWE Central Committee member, was present during the ceremony.

Leaves for PRC

EA232224 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Excerpts] The president of the Namibian independence movement, Comrade Sam Nujoma, left for Beijing today after a 2-day visit to Addis Ababa. Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the OAU, and the Chinese Embassy gave Comrade Nujoma a warm send-off when he left Addis Ababa from Bole International Airport.

KENYA

SWAPO'S NUJOMA PAYS 2-DAY VISIT; HOLDS TALKS

Arrival Press Conference

EA220056 Nairobi Domestic Television Service in English 1830 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Excerpt] SWAPO leader Nujoma addressed a press conference at the Jomo Kenyatta International Ariport yesterday on his arrival.

He castigated the Reagan administration's support for the racist South African regime. He was flanked by an assistant minister for foreign affairs, Mr Kamwithi Munyi, the Chinese ambassador to Kenya, Mr Yang Keming; the chief of protocol, Mr Dennis Afande; and the deputy director of aerodromes, Mr Songa.

[Begin Nujoma recording] As you are aware, [words indistinct] that the racist, fascist regime of South Africa has been playing maneuvers and intrigues aimed at delaying the day of the achievement of Namibia's independence.

In that kind of maneuvers and intrigues, racist South Africa [word indistinct] has the support of international imperialists and capitalist countries, notably the United States, which has now (?proved) a stumbling block in the process of the decolonization of Namibia by demanding that the Cuban Armed Forces' presence in Angola should be withdrawn as a precondition to Namibia's independence.

The people of Namibia, Africa, and in particular the current chairman of the OAU, His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi, have rejected this imperialist plan of our independence to be made a precondition to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola while these are two separate issues. [sentence as heard] Angola is a separate sovereign state and Namibia is a colony. Therefore the two cannot be linked together.

If the United States wants the Cuban troops out of Angola, they should (?separately) negotiate with the Angolans, and the Cubans, who are just 90 miles away from their own country.

Well, we see this (?just as) an imperialist maneuver to give an ample opportunity to the racist and fascist Pretoria regime to find loopholes and impose a neocolonial solution in Namibia. [end recording]

Talks With Kibaki

EA220044 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] The vice president and minister for home affairs, the Honorable Mwai Kibaki, said today that African countries were united in bringing about total independence in Namibia.

Mr Kibaki, who was speaking in his office when he held discussions with the president of SWAPO, Mr Sam Nujoma, said that Africans had no alternative but to fight until the racist regime of South Africa was got rid of. He said Namibia should get [words indistinct] in a neighboring country, adding that everybody was determined to see that SWAPO succeeded in the struggle for independence. The vice president further said that the whites in Namibia should also assist the Africans in shaping the kind of society that they would like to live in.

Saying that Kenya was aware of what it means to fight for independence, Mr Kibaki said that the whites in Namibia should visit countries like Kenya and see the kind of multi-racial society that the country molded after independence has achieved.

Mr Nujoma, who arrived in Kenya yesterday, told Mr Kibaki that he had come to Kenya to express SWAPO's sincere gratitude for the concrete material support that the country had given the armed struggle in his country. He said the support given to the Namibian liberation movement would enable them to carry on the struggle until independence was achieved.

TANZANIA

CITIZENS ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPT TO INCITE UNREST

EA212348 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and South Africa 1600 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Several people have been arrested in connection with an attempt to incite unrest in the country earlier this month. A statement issued in Dar es Salaam today by the inspector general of police, Ndugu Solomon Liani, said that those arrested included the armed forces and civilians.

The statement said the attempt to incite unrest was uncovered by members of the Tanzania People's Defense Forces [TPDF], who reported it to the authorities.

The inspector general emphasized in the statement that the TPDF was in no way connected with the attempt. The statement warned that legal measures will be taken against all those involved in the affair.

ZAIRE

CONTINUING REPORTAGE ON ISRAEL'S SHARON'S VISIT

Mobutu Speaks on Aid

AB231431 Paris AFP in French 1312 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Kinshasa, 23 Jan (AFP) -- Zaire has decided to entrust Israel with the reorganization of "all" the sectors of its national army which are yet to benefit from external assistance, Zairian head of state Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko stated on Saturday in Kinshasa in an interview with AFP. Israel will thus become -- with France, Belgium, and China -- the major partner of Zaire in the field of defense.

Following agreements on military cooperation signed in January at the end of a 4-day official visit to Zaire by Israeli Defense Minister General Ari'el Sharon, Israel, according to Mr Mobuti, will essentially be entrusted with the "restructuring" of the "Kamanyola Division" (12,000 men) based in Shaba in the southeast of the country, and will also take charge of reshaping several other units.

The Zarian president stressed that Tel Aviv is to send military advisers to Kalemie, located on the bank of Lake Tanganyika, where the command of the 3d Military Region of the Zairian naval force is headquartered.

Israeli instructors will also be detached to Hbanza-Ngungu, southwest of Kinshasa, where the new artillery batallion of the Zairian Armed Forces (FAZ) is to be constituted.

Furthermore, Mr Mobutu added, Israel will assist in particular in the fields of artillery and communications.

Still according to the Zairian head of state, the troop strength of the Special Presidential Brigade (BSP), the elite unit which has been trained since 1982 by about eight Israeli experts, will be considerably increased. It will go from the present 3,000 men to 7,500 and Mr Mobutu indicated, the BSP will be transformed into a division in a few years.

The number of Israeli officers who will be in Zaire within the framework of the implementation of the 5-year plan for the modernization of the FAZ has not yet been determined, President Mobutu added. A Zairian delegation is supposed to go at any time now to Israel, he said, to define the terms and conditions of the effective implementation of the plan.

Mr Mobutu further revealed that the expenditure for the reequipping of several FAZ units will be borne "by both Zaire and Israel: 50-50," he specified.

In this connection, President Mobutu has affirmed that the recent agreements concluded provided in black and white that under no circumstances would Tel Aviv supply Zaire with any arms seized from the PLO during the war in Lebanon.

Mobutu also refused to confirm or deny possible contacts in Kinshasa between General Sharon and emissaries from neighboring countries, particularly Chad, CAR, Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda: "I cannot tell you who has seen Mr Sharon. I do not know and I did not place any spies around the residence of the Israeli minister to find out" the Zairian president merely declared.

Asked about his possible role of intermediary to obtain military aid from Tel Aviv for Hissein Habre, in power in Chad, Mr Mobutu replied that the Israeli leaders were "big enough" to deal "directly" with the Chadian leader if they so desired.

Finally, Mr Mobutu formally denied that he wished to act as Israel's advocate in Africa. "We have dealt with that country in full sovereignty. Our relations with Israel are our business and we do not have to impose our views on our neighbors. It is up to those states and to Israel to normalize their relations directly."

Lomponda Comments on Aid

TA201127 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Jan 83 p 2

[Report from Zaire by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] "Israel is the most suitable country to help Zaire defend its southeastern border with Angola, Zambia, and Tanzania. What is especially important for us is to defend the area of uranium, copper, and cobalt mines in Shaba near the border with Angola." Admiral Lomponda, Zaire's minister for national security affairs, said this yesterday to MA'ARIV.

Admiral Lomponda, one of the top-ranking officials in Zaire, revealed that he would be coming to Israel on an official visit in February instead of President Mobutu, who will come at a later date.

President Mobutu intends for Israel to play a central role in training and preparing an infrastructure for the Zaire Army with new weapons and fighting methods.

Mobutu will try to build up a model of Israeli-African cooperation in order to encourage other African countries to recognize Israel and deepen cooperation with it.

Lomponda told MA'ARIV that on his visit to Israel he will examine ways of giving aid and the measures that Israel can put at the disposal of Zaire. He confirmed that President Mobutu has decided to give preference to Israel over other countries for supplying aid for the reorganization of the Zaire Army, since Israel has no economic interests in Zaire and it is a peace-loving country.

Opposition Leader Denounces Visit

AB201210 Paris AFP in English 1150 GMT 20 Jan 83

[Text] Brussels, Jan 20 (AFP) -- The current visit to Zaire by Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon is in order to strengthen and organize the "Tel Aviv-Kinshasa-Pretoria Axis," according to Nguza Karl I Bond, leader of the Zaire opposition Congolese Front for the Restoration of Democracy (FCD), based here.

In a statement, Mr Nguza said Mr Sharon's five-day visit also aimed to "ensure the personal protection of (Zaire President) Mobutu, with arms recovered by the Israeli Army in Lebanon."

The FCD, whose creation was announced last October 1 here, groups a number of movements opposed to the Mobutu regime.

BENIN

GOVERNMENT CLOSES BORDERS TO OTHER NATIONALS

AB221234 Paris AFP in English 1225 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Lagos, Jan 22 (AFP) -- Benin today closed its border with Nigeria to everyone except its own nationals, diplomatic sources said here today.

The move followed Nigeria's decision earlier this week to expell all illegal immigrants, a decision expected to affect up to two million people.

Reports of the frontier closure came from West African embassies whose nationals had been turned back at the border.

Observers speculated that the government in Cotonou might have ordered the closure to bar the way to an estimated one million Ghanaians thought to be hit by the Nigerian expulsion order.

Ghana's own frontiers with Togo, Benin's western neighbour, have been sealed for many weeks, and neither Benin nor Togo would be in a position to look after such a vast number of refugees.

Ghanaian diplomatic sources here said two small ships were expected to sail into Lagos on Monday to help with the evacuation, but these would be able to carry only a few hundred of the many thousands of Ghanaians being thrown out of Nigeria.

GHANA

BRITISH MERCENARIES REPORTEDLY TO ARRIVE

Leave Heathrow

AB220715 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] A report on today's edition of the GHANAIAN TIMES says the first batch of British mercenaries left Heathrow Airport in the middle of the week destined for Ghana. They are, however, believed to be in transit in Togo, awaiting the arrival of a second batch of mercenaries this weekend. The mercenaries are believed to have been recruited by Ghanaian exiles abroad and assisted by Israeli intelligence officers. Their operational equipment, including a mobile radio transmitter, heavy mortars, machineguns, grenades, and light automatic weapons are also believed to be in Togo. According to the GHANAIAN TIMES, it is not, however, known whether the attack will be by land, sea, or air. The TIMES says when the Army commander, Brigadier Arnold Quainoo, was contacted he declined to comment. He repeated an earlier assurance to the nation that the Ghana Armed Forces are on the alert.

Called 'Wild Coose Story"

AB231403 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The GHANAIAN TIMES of yesterday carried a report that a first batch of British mercenaries had left Heathrow Airport in the middle of last week destined for Ghana and is believed to be in transit in Togo awaiting the arrival of a second batch this weekend. The mercenaries are reported to have been recruited by Ghanian exiles abroad and assisted by Israeli intelligence officers. They are believed to have operational equipment already landed in Togo, with very heavy mortars, machineguns, grenades and light automatic weapons for fighters, and a mobile radio transmitter supposedly to be placed at [name indistinct] station and make broadcasts to the nation.

The GHANAIAN TIMES report, which has neither been confirmed nor denied by the military authorities, sounds like another wild goose story we usually associate with distant places but this time close to us. Incidentally, the use of mercenaries in attempts to overthrow governments in Africa and other parts of the Third World is not uncommon. In the year 1977 for example, mercenaries landed one fine morning in Benin in an attempt to overthrow President Kerekou, which failed. Guinea has had a similar mercenary invasion in a bid to overthrow President Sekou Toure. In 1978, a group of white mercenaries under the deposed Bob Denard invaded the Comoros Islands and succeeded in overthrowing the progressive government there. The mercenary leader then proceeded to install himself as head of state of the Comoros Islands. Again this last year, a group of mercenaries from South Africa attempted to overthrow the Albert Rene government of the Seychelles but failed. At this very minute, scores of mercenaries recruited from Britain, the United States, South Africa, and other places are causing havoc inside Angola and Mozambique.

All those examples are being cited to show that it is not uncommon for social forces hostile to the interest of the broad masses of people to hire mercenaries to use reactionary violence in attempts to overthrow popular governments and to halt the people's struggle for social change. For this reason it becomes crucial for the popular forces under their leadership to maintain the highest level of vigilance against counterrevolutionary maneuvers no matter the source. Any social process aimed at the revolutionary transformation of society has clear and dangerous enemies who will do everything to prevent the advance of the popular cause and revolutionary and progressive forces have the demanding task of maintaining vigilance at all times and [words indistinct] to defeat counterrevolution. But reassurance came from the Army commander that the Ghana Armed Forces are on the alert because her soldiers can handle any mercenary invasion or infiltration. However, when dealing with this major threat to the popular 31 December process, it is important to take political and ideological measures that will strengthen the people, make them united and ready to stand firm against all attempts to halt progressive social changes in the country.

ECOWAS PRESIDENTS SEND MESSAGE TO NIGERIA

AB230814 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] The heads of state of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia have reportedly sent an urgent message to the Nigerian Government expressing concern over its decision to expel all illegal immigrants in the country. They particularly appealed to President Shagari to reconsider his government's decision on the immigrants who have less than 2 weeks to leave Nigeria or face punishment. The three heads of state further called for an emergency meeting of ECOWAS to discuss the question of free movement of people among member states. Ambassadors of ECOWAS countries accredited to Nigeria have also been meeting in an effort to persuade the Nigerian authorities to review the decision, but so far, there is no indication that this will yield any dividend.

REPORTAGE ON REACTION TO NIGERIA'S ALIEN EXIT ORDER

Task Force Set Up

AB220749 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] The PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has set up a task force under Commodor Obimpe, former commander of the Ghana Navy, to carry out the repatriation of Ghanaians affected by the decision of the Nigerian Government to expel foreigners illegally resident in Nigeria.

The task force consists of representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Health, Transport, and Communications and Social Welfare. Three ships of the Black Star Line have left Takoradi and Tema for Lome, Lagos, and Warri to transport stranded Ghanaians back. The task force has set up a reception center to provide transit, social welfare, and medical facilities for arriving Ghanaians before they depart for their respective towns and villages. The first batch of the affected Ghanaians are expected to arrive home over the weekend.

Nationals Return From Lagos

AB240815 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] A group of Ghanaian travelers who arrived in Accra from Lagos last night, has appealed to the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] to expedite the repatriation of all Ghanaians affected by the Nigerian Government's alien quit order. A spokesman for the group, which called at the GHANA NEWS AGENCY offices at the airport soon after arrival, said the stage is set for Nigerians to take the law into their hands after the expiration of the 2-week deadline. The spokesman said the Nigerians are really poised for vengeance against Ghanaians for the 1970 alien compliance order. He advised those who are still rushing to that country to halt their trip so that more than 800 Ghanaian passengers who have spent a week at Murtala Airport waiting for their turn to return should get the chance of doing so. The spokesman suggested that the government should restrict the number of Ghanaians traveling to Nigeria now until the evacuation exercise is over.

Meanwhile, the NIGERIAN SUNDAY PUNCH newspaper has revealed that some Nigerians have started molesting aliens who are yet to leave the country. According to the paper, the Nigerian police have not made adequate preparations for the quit order because it was sudden. The SUNDAY TIMES also reported that Ghanaians have been auctioning their belongings which included furniture and household goods. The paper reported the director of Nigerian immigration, Alhaji Lawal Sambo, as saying "you just wait and see, we are going to enforce any directives from the government."

One of the Black Star Line ships, Siseily River, which was dispatched by the PNDC to bring back repatriated Ghanaians from Nigeria is continuing from Lome to Cotonou.

According to a spokesman of the marine signals section of the Tema harbor, the ship, which berthed at Lome, collected about 10 articulated trucks full of Ghanaians and is continuing to Cotonou to convey more of the repatriated people. The spokesman further added that another ship, M.V. Keta, is already in Lagos. Reports say Benin border security forces have refused to allow Ghanaians to cross the border from Nigeria. They, however, allow Togolese and Niger nationals to cross. According to the reports, many cars and lorries loaded with the belongings of the expelled immigrants are at the Benin-Nigeria border.

The PIONEER

AB211858 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Writing under the heading "Exodus, Chapter One," the PIONEER says the shocking news that oil-rich Nigeria is flushing out all illegal ECOWAS immigrants in 2 weeks should teach Ghanaians who still think that Ghana must carry Africa on her back to sit up and put on their thinking cap.

It means that the picking on only illegal ECOWAS immigrants and not on all illegal immigrants in that country shows so well that President Shehu Shagari wants to extract vengeance for a similar action taken by Ghana in 1969. The PIONEER observes that the Ghanaian community in Nigeria is by far the largest single foreign community in that country and this, the Shagari government cannot claim to be unaware. The adjective "illegal ECOWAS immigrant" is a nice diplomatic ruse by the Nigerians to blindfold Ghanaians from seeing the real motives behind the flushout. The paper is happy and congratulates the Provisional National Defense Council for dispatching Black Star Line ships to evacuated the unwanted Ghanaians in Nigeria. It described the move as one piece of sound political action any government who cares for the welfare of its people can take in such circumstances.

TIMES on Repatriation

AB220825 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Press review]

[Text] The GHANAIAN TIMES again writes on the repatriation of Ghanaians from Nigeria. The paper notes that the quick reaction by the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] will bring much relief to the affected Ghanaians, most of whom it says, were enticed into Nigeria by owners of labor-short Nigerian companies. The TIMES says whether they entered Nigeria wrongly or rightly, Ghanaians have rendered worthy services to that country and after all these goods services the reward being offered is what the world is witnessing. The paper says the affected Ghanaians should be allowed to bring home their personal possessions which they have acquired through their sweat. It suggests that since the naira is not legal tender outside Nigeria, Ghanaian bank officials should be allowed into that country and help to have their savings converted and repatriated for them. This, the TIMES says, is to make sure that Nigerian officials do not seize such money with the argument that they are taking away with them more nairias than what the country's laws permit. Those who have acquired vehicles and other movable property should also be helped to bring them home. It says if the Nigerian Government is sincere about its reasons for the deportation order, then the exercise should not be turned into punishment and molestation. Those affected should be allowed to leave in peace. The TIMES assures Nigeria that Ghana remains committed to upholding the long-standing friendship and goodwill that exists between the peoples of the two countries. Nigerians and Ghanaians will therefore continue to be regarded as brothers and sisters.

NIGERIA

BENIN REPORTEDLY OPENS BORDER TO TOGOLESE

AB240749 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Togolese nationals returning home from Nigeria as a result of the Federal Government's quit order on illegal immigrants have now been allowed to cross into Beninese territory. This is on condition that they possess passes issued by their embassy in Lagos. This followed an agreement yesterday between the Togolese ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Foli Agbenozan Tettekpoe, and Beninese Government officials. Benin Republic recently closed its border with Nigeria to the immigrants except her own nationals. The agreement between Benin and Togo, however, does not solve the problem of the Ghanaian immigrants numbering almost 2 million.

This is because the Benin border is still barred to them, while their own borders -- closed since last September -- are yet to be opened. Radio Ghana has however announced that the first boat carrying the refugees will arrive in Accra tonight.

RADIO REPORTS ON EFFECT OF EXPULSION ORDER

AB211919 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] As for the Federal Government's ultimatum that aliens without valid permits should leave the country, the effect is already being felt in the Lagos metropolis. Correspondent Jo Ono, who went round the capital city today, reports:

The affected aliens were still making last-minute arrangements to leave the country before the deadline which falls next week. At the immigration office, thousands of aliens in the country were seen applying for reentry and extension of resident permits. My investigations show that the most affected aliens were those from the ECOWAS countries and immigration officials said the quit order did not affect those who had just been granted visiting entry permits for 90 days under the ECOWAS treaty. He however said the order would affect all those women who though now married to Nigerians but entered the country without valid permits. The official said if the aliens comply with the provisions of the ECOWAS treaty, there is no need for them to entertain any fear. He said his ministry had not stopped issuing visiting visas for anybody wishing to visit the country on genuine grounds.

A consular and information officer at the Ghana High Commission in Lagos, Mr John Asheby Ntow, told me that his commission has started issuing travel certificates to the affected individuals, numbering about 1 million. Already, he said, the Ghana Airways have started airlifting some of them. Mr Asheby Nton said that the commission had written to the Nigerian External Affairs Ministry to provide them with transit camps from where they would evacuate them. He said this will serve as a protection as well as a freedom in the evacuation exercise.

Asked about the two ships sent by his country for the exercise, he said that they were aware of it but were still expecting the arrival of the ships. On his government's reaction to the expulsion order, Mr Asheby Ntow said Nigeria's action could be regarded as unfriendly because, according to him, it was a criminal offense under the immigration act to reside in any country without valid resident permits. At Idi Motta motor park, I saw hundreds of Togolese boarding taxicabs on the first leg of their journey back home. Some of those I interviewed said there was nothing they could do but to go home in compliance with the Federal Government order. There were, however, mixed feelings from a cross-section of the Nigerian public on the expulsion order. An applicant who would like to remain anonymous said the Federal Government action will enable those of them who were looking for employment to secure one. A trader said the action would affect their turnover as most of their customers were aliens. On the general effect of the order, a factory worker said it will bring about a fall in the prices of food items, availability of rentable houses, and job opportunities. But the loudest complaints came from housewives who said that the greatest avenue for securing housemen has been blocked by the exercise.

PAPERS SUPPORT GOVERNMENT EXPULSION OF ALIENS

AB211942 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Press review]

[Text] Five papers, the NIGERIAN STATESMAN, the NIGERIAN HERALD, the DAILY NATION, the NIGERIAN STANDARD and the NIGERIAN OBSERVER comment on the Federal Government's recent directive that all aliens staying or working illegally in the country should leave within 2 weeks. The papers describe the move as bold as it is timely.

The NIGERIAN STATESMAN points out that Nigeria cannot now or in the foreseeable future afford to be an unrestricted haven for all manner of people, adding that even the most technolo cally industrialized countries of the world have not been too lenient to allow deluge of foreigners and other unskilled labor pour across their borders in the name of friendship. The STATESMAN, therefore, suggests that at the end of the 2 weeks, government agents should commence inspecting commercial, industrial, and household establishments with a view to identifying the defaulting aliens and also to severely deal with the companies found to be contravening the immigration laws by illegally employing aliens.

The HERALD is of the view that the problems arising from aliens' influx in the country emanates from the weakness of the immigration laws and the outrageous porous nature of our borders which make entry and exit in and out of the country a very simple one, contending that they should all set up now to ensure that the orders are carried out with all seriousness. However, the HERALD sees that with the deportation of these aliens, some states will be affected in the areas of health and education, because according to it, the vital areas of our national programs are being manned by aliens which, it says, supplement for local manpower of these areas. It then suggests that those who are currently actively employed in vital sectors of our economy be given a chance to regularize their condition.

The STANDARD believes that the majority of aliens in the country who are abusing our laws are doing so with the active connivance of the Nigerian citizens, adding that the open-door policy of the country had been grossly abused to the utter detriment of our economy. The STANDARD, therefore, supports the deporation exercise as muted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, but thinks that only honest and sincere immigration officials can help in the campaign to rid the nation of aliens of dubious mission in Nigeria.

And the OBSERVER says taking undue advantage of the yet to be fully implemented ECOWAS charter, many ECOWAS citizens and others flocked to Nigeria through approved and underground channels with the active connivance of unpatriotic Nigerians. According to the paper, among those who have found not only a safe but a profitable sanctuary in Nigeria are free-to-cheat offenders and the criminally minded, hence the upward swing in the crime rate in the country. However, the OBSERVER remarks that the 2-week deadline given affected aliens to clear out of the country will create a loophole which avaricious Nigerians would exploit unabashedly, adding that within 2-weeks many foreigners would have acquired Nigerian passports and contrived bond marriages, therefore suggesting a rescheduling of the deadline to 48 hours.

The DAILY NATION, on its part, expresses its total support for the decision to eject all illegal immigrants out of the society. The paper is of the opinion that if the ministry's announcement is effectively pursued, the country would solve once and for all the problems generated by the activities of these illegal aliens.